

Better Homes & Gardens®

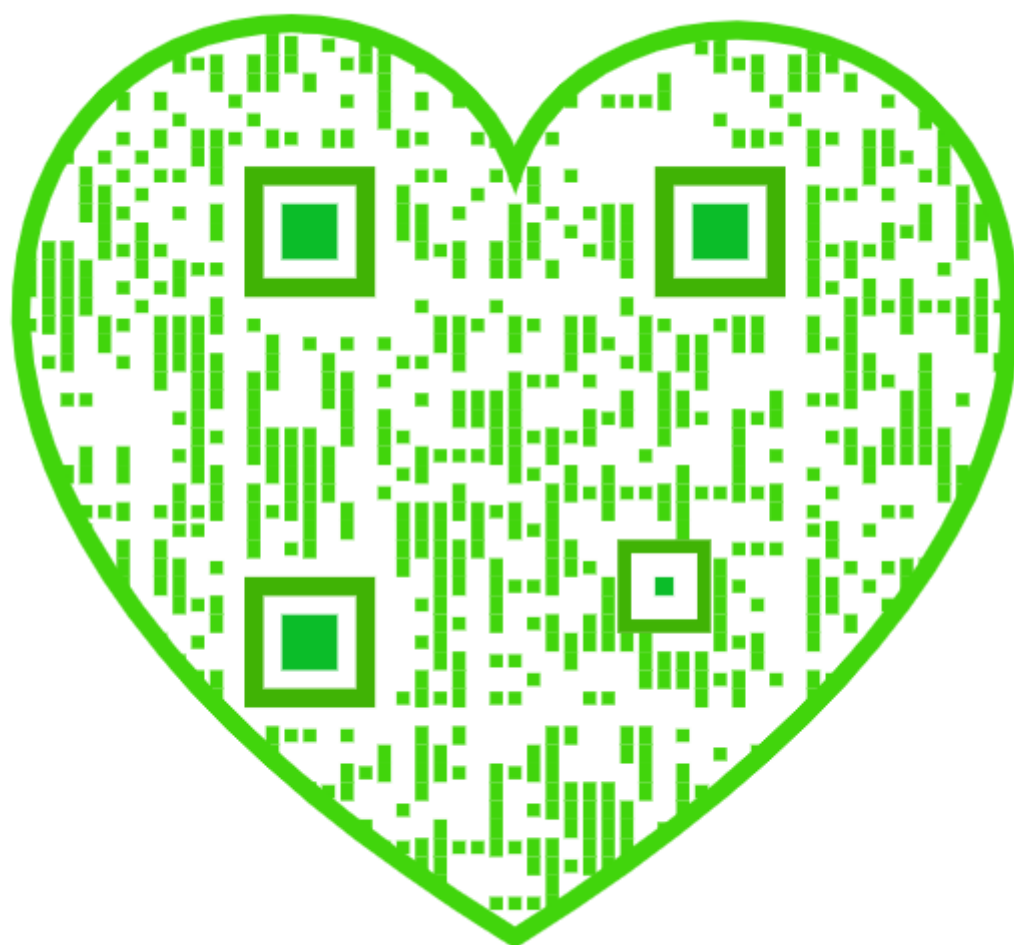
Beds & Borders

**36
GARDENS
YOU CAN
GROW**

**LOW-MAINTENANCE
PLANTS WITH BIG COLOR**

**COMPLETE
PLANS FOR
SUN & SHADE,
BIG & SMALL**

2025



THIS MAGAZINE HELPS TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO A HOME. BUT FIRST,
Let's Get You That House.

For over 100 years, Better Homes & Gardens® has been helping its readers decorate, remodel and create their best homes. Which is why it's become the most trusted authority on the subject in America.

Now, imagine being able to live in the pages of this iconic magazine; where its style and taste are at the center of the real estate experience.

That's why Better Homes and Gardens® Real Estate was created.

Since 1978, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate has been helping clients find the homes they're looking for. Through exclusive training materials and our ongoing affiliation with the BHG brand, we're empowering agents to stay on top of home design and industry trends so we can better help homebuyers find the perfect place. This curated approach has led to a remarkable 99% satisfaction rate*.

So whether you're searching for "that home" or selling your current home, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate is uniquely prepared to help you. Because when "Better Homes" is in your name, you'd better know homes better than anyone. And we do.

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from the **GROUND UP**

DIG INTO 20 TIPS AND TECHNIQUES TO HELP YOUR GARDEN GROW—FROM SOIL LEVEL TO TREETOP. THESE SOUND HORTICULTURE PRACTICES WILL EASE THE WORK AND INCREASE THE JOY OF TENDING YOUR BEDS AND BORDERS, WHETHER YOU’VE CELEBRATED MANY SPRING BLOOMS OR ARE PLANTING YOUR FIRST PERENNIAL.



Replenish

1

A great garden begins with loose, nutrient-rich soil. No matter the condition of your current soil, spreading a 2-inch-thick layer of well-decomposed compost over the bed each spring will improve and replenish the soil. Search out quality compost that is free of weed seeds.

2

Make Your Bed



- **REMOVE SOD** Making a new bed begins with removing existing vegetation—usually sod. Rent a sod cutter or use a sharp spade to skim off the grass, including its root system. Add the removed sod to your compost pile, placing it root side up, or use it to patch a thin area of the lawn.
- **SPREAD COMPOST** After removing the sod, blanket the new planting bed with a 2-inch-thick layer of well-decomposed compost. Do not spread additional soil amendments, such as a fertilizer product, unless directed by a soil test.
- **MIX** Use a garden fork or small tiller to mix the compost into the native soil. Avoid stepping into the new garden bed when possible to prevent soil compaction.



3

Check the Depth

The top of a plant's root ball should be even with the surrounding grade. Plants situated too high or too low in a planting hole will struggle to produce a strong root system.

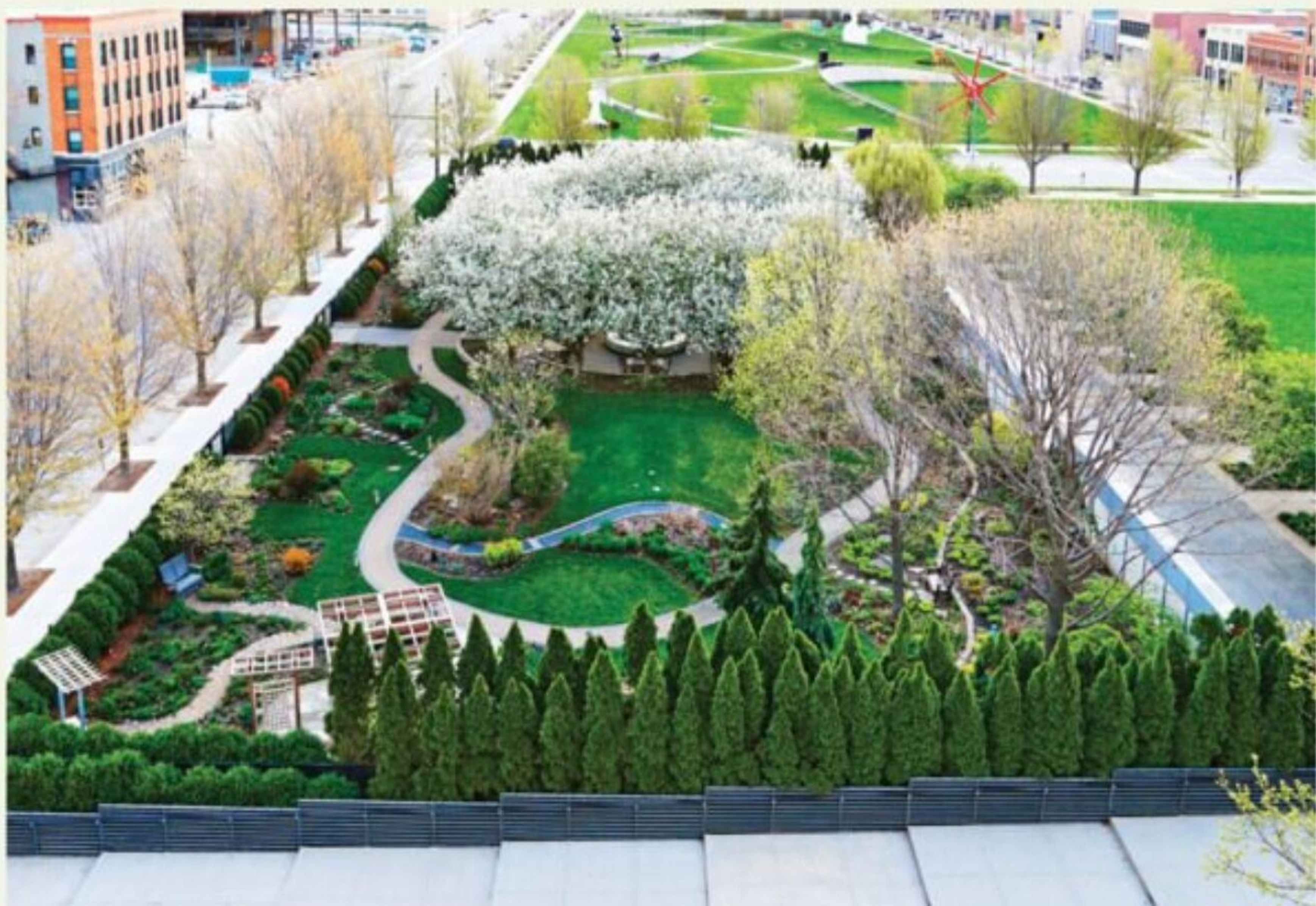
4

No Amendments

Do not add soil amendments unless directed by a reputable soil test. Excessive amounts of fertilizer or soil-conditioning products will pollute the soil and nearby groundwater.

BHG TEST GARDEN

Nestled on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre right outside the *Better Homes & Gardens*® magazine headquarters, the BHG Test Garden brims with thousands of plants. Magazine editors and Test Garden manager Sandra Gerdes continuously seek out better plants, better gardening practices, and better ways to care for our environment. The Test Garden is a living laboratory that helps us bring you the best of the world of horticulture.





7

Water Smarts

- **GARDEN HOSE** Hoses help you efficiently deliver water to a garden. Connect multiple hoses together as necessary to reach your bed or border. Soaker hoses are helpful for growing veggies in areas that are prone to drought.
- **CAN** A watering can is good for small watering jobs—a single new plant that needs extra moisture or a row of seedlings. Choose an ergonomic can that is easy to tote when full.
- **WAND** A watering wand attaches to the end of a hose to extend your reach. Use a wand to deliver water directly to the root zone of a plant where it will be absorbed quickly.

5

Know Your Light

- **FULL SUN** A full sun planting spot is defined as a location that receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight a day. The quality of light is important—the sunlight is not filtered through nearby foliage in a full sun growing location; it illuminates leaves directly.
- **PART SUN OR PART SHADE** Often found under an open, leafy canopy or on the north or east side of a building, a part sun or part shade location receives 4 to 6 hours of sunlight a day.
- **FULL SHADE** Areas with less than 4 hours of direct sunlight are classified as full shade locations. Trees with dense canopies, such as oaks and maples, create full shade. Urban gardens hemmed in by buildings on all sides are often full shade planting sites.

6

Watch the Shadows

Nearby trees, buildings, hedges, and fences will often cast shade on a garden bed. What appears to be a full sun location could be part shade if it is in the afternoon shadow of a nearby building.





8

Do I Need to Water?

During the first 8 weeks after planting, perennials, shrubs, and annuals need about an inch of water per week to develop roots into the surrounding soil. When natural rainfall doesn't suffice, water your new plants. After the first 8 weeks, plants usually have sufficient root systems to supply their own water needs. Water during extended dry periods.



9

Annual vs. Perennial

There are two general categories of flowering plants—annuals and perennials. Annual plants flower and then die at the end of the growing season. They do not return to bloom the following year. Perennial plants flower year after year.



PHOTOS: KRITSADA, RALPH ANDERSON, MARTY BALDWIN, KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

10

A Good Start

Starting plants from seed is more economical than buying transplants. Here's how to know if the cost-saving is worth it.

- **ANNUALS** Low-growing annual flowering plants, such as begonias, impatiens, and calibrachoa, are best as transplants purchased at the garden center. Most cutting flowers, such as zinnias and sunflowers, are easy to start from seeds planted in the garden.
- **PERENNIALS** Expect to wait 3 years for perennials started from seeds to begin flowering. Jump-start your new garden by beginning with purchased transplants.
- **EDIBLES** Most edibles are easy to start from seeds planted indoors or directly in the garden. There are hundreds of varieties of seed-grown veggies available through mail order companies.

11

Know Your Zone

The USDA created the Plant Hardiness Zone Map to help gardeners know which plants will survive in their region. Most hardy plants have a Zone rating to indicate where they will tolerate winter temperatures year after year. Find your Zone at planthardiness.ars.usda.gov and purchase plants rated hardy in that Zone.



12

Buyer's Notes

A new plant is an investment. Purchase wisely by closely inspecting the plant before you buy.

A healthy plant has blemish-free foliage, strong and sturdy stems, and adequate roots. Gently lift the plant out of its pot to inspect the root system. The roots should be white or tan in color and visible—though not tightly tangled together—on the outside of the soil ball.

When it comes to size, bigger is not always better. A perennial growing in a quart-size pot is less expensive than the same perennial in gallon-size pot—and all sizes of plants grow rapidly in ideal garden conditions. Choose the small plant and save money.

14

Planting Day

Spring is often cited as planting time, but plants are resilient and can be planted throughout the growing season. Moderate temperatures and regular moisture make spring and fall ideal. When planting in the heat of summer, plan to water daily if conditions warrant; shield young plants from intense sunlight until they are established.



Gardening with Insects

- **NO BAD BUGS** There are no bad bugs or good bugs, only situations. Earwigs, for example, might eat your zinnias, but they also eat aphids, mites, and other pests.
- **DO NOT DISTURB** While deterring pests, aim to disturb the natural order as little as possible. Remove unwanted bugs by hand, or hose them off plants to minimally impact the surrounding ecosystem.
- **NATURE TO THE RESCUE** A troublesome insect is often present and seemingly destructive for just a few days or weeks before environmental factors change in a way that sends the insect packing. Wait patiently before taking action.
- **PLANT PLENTY** If pests are a reoccurring challenge in your edible garden, plant extra produce to provide for both you and the garden visitors.





15

Watch for Early Risers

Many pesky weeds emerge from the soil in spring before perennials have fully expanded. Weeds are easy to pluck away when they are small and the soil is moist. When pulling weeds, grasp the base of the plant at soil level and pull firmly to remove the offender's roots in addition to its foliage. Visit your garden every few days to quickly pluck out emerging weeds.

16

Weed Before Winter

Put your garden to bed for winter weed-free. Removing weeds in late fall will lessen pressure in spring and prevent fall-flowering weeds from sending a host of seeds into the soil.

17



Skip the Chemicals

Consider holding off on pesticides. Even those labeled *natural* or *organic* tend to be indiscriminate, killing beneficial insects along with the destructive ones. Herbicides have similar negative impacts.



18

3 Great Mulches

- **GRASS CLIPPINGS** Gathered from your lawn, grass clippings quickly break down, adding nutrients to the soil. Plan to refresh the weed-suppressing layer of clippings regularly.
- **SHREDDED BARK** Available in easy-to-tote bags, shredded bark mulch will last a year or two in the garden before decomposing.
- **WOOD CHIPS** Often available from a local arborist, wood chips are best used in perennial and shrub beds.



19

Leave the Leaves

Wildlife of all sorts use fallen leaves as overwintering habitat. When leaves fall in your garden, allow them to remain in place until spring when you can rake them away—or simply allow them to decompose right where they land, enriching the soil in the process. Allow perennial plants to stay standing through winter too. Insects often find a cozy winter retreat in hollow stems.

20

Garden Care

SPRING

When temperatures moderate, cut back perennials to 6–12 inches tall; compost debris.
Rake and gather last year's fallen leaves as desired.
Spread a 2-inch-thick layer of compost over garden beds.
Diligently weed the garden weekly.
Refresh mulch as needed.

SUMMER

Water plants deeply but infrequently during long dry periods.
Remove spent blooms on perennials to encourage new flowers.
Continue to weed diligently.

FALL

Pull all weeds before ground freezes.
Remove and compost vegetable plants after frost.
Spread an insulating layer of mulch around tender perennials.

WINTER

Prune trees and shrubs in late winter.
Watch for new growth to emerge in late winter; remove excess leaf debris as needed.

THE BHG TEST GARDEN

TOP 10

THOUSANDS OF PLANTS MAKE UP THE BETTER HOMES & GARDENS TEST GARDEN, BUT THESE TEN STAND OUT AS RELIABLE, VERSATILE, AND HARDWORKING PERFORMERS. THEY'RE A SURE BET!

'AMERICAN GOLD RUSH' BLACK-EYED SUSAN

(*Rudbeckia* hybrid); Zones 3–9. Disease-free and flowers from summer until frost.

'AUREOLA' HAKONE GRASS

(*Hakonechloa macra*); Zones 5–9. Grows 15 inches tall and spreads 2 feet wide in full shade.

'CORDIAL CANARY' BUGLEWEED

(*Ajuga reptans*); Zones 4–9. Rabbit- and deer-resistant groundcover.

'CURTAIN CALL DEEP ROSE' ANEMONE

(*Anemone* hybrid); Zones 4–8. Flowers for 9 weeks or more in fall.

'FIRE LIGHT' HYDRANGEA

(*Hydrangea paniculata*); Zones 3–8. Exceptionally hardy and rosy red fall color.

'ICE N' ROSES RED' HELLEBORE

(*Helleborus* hybrid); Zones 5–9. One of the earliest blooming hellebores.

'ROCKETMAN' RUSSIAN SAGE

(*Perovskia atriplicifolia*); Zones 4–9. Drought-tolerant, long-blooming.

'SOMBRERO ADOBE ORANGE' CONEFLOWER

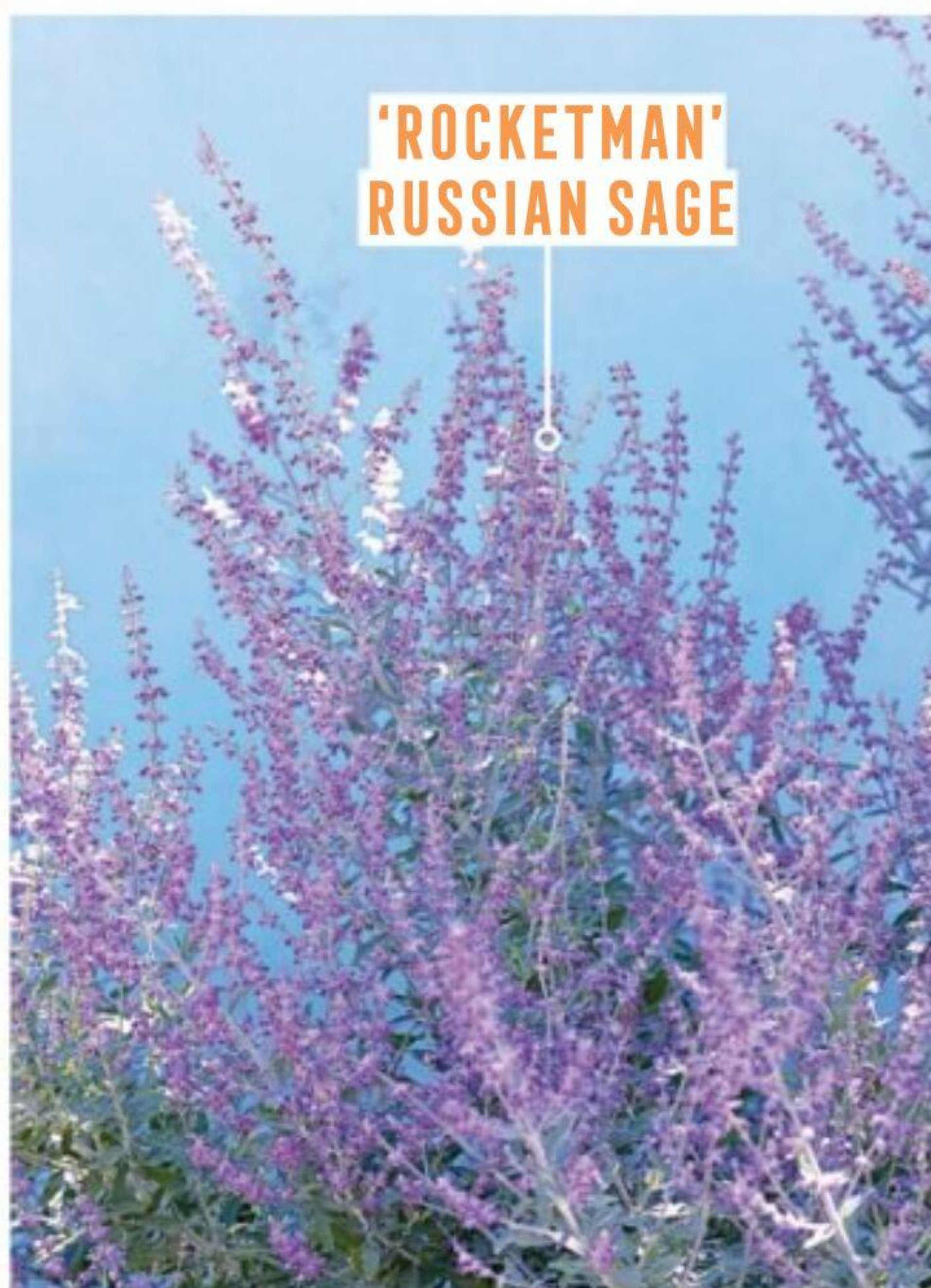
(*Echinacea* hybrid); Zones 4–9. Abundant 3-inch flowers.

'STANDING OVATION' LITTLE BLUESTEM

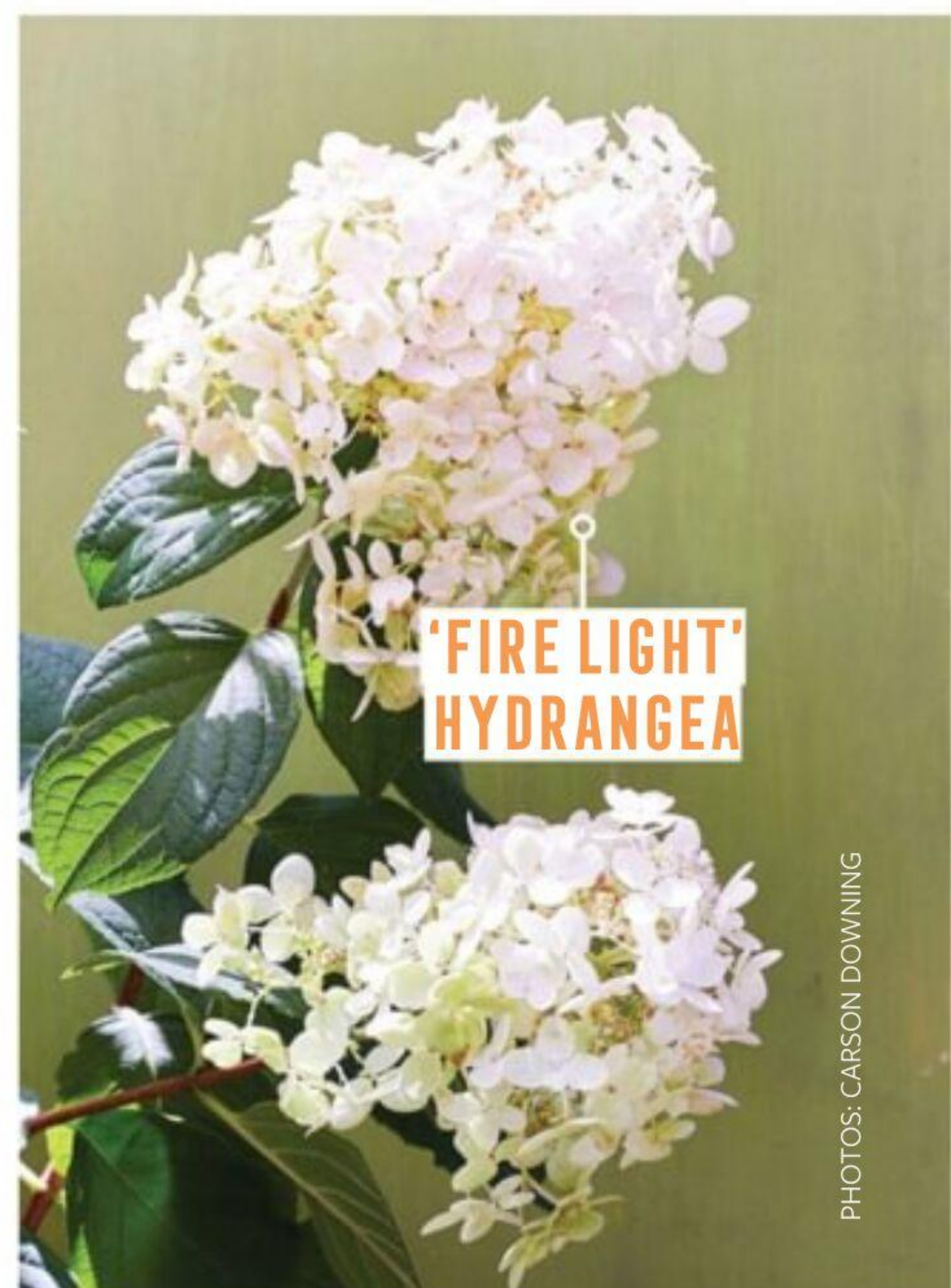
(*Schizachyrium scoparium*); Zones 3–8. Strong upright habit. Stands 4 feet tall.

'SUGAR TIP' ROSE OF SHARON

(*Hibiscus syriacus*); Zones 5–9. Summer-flowering shrub with eye-catching foliage.



'ROCKETMAN' RUSSIAN SAGE



'FIRE LIGHT' HYDRANGEA

PHOTOS: CARSON DOWNING



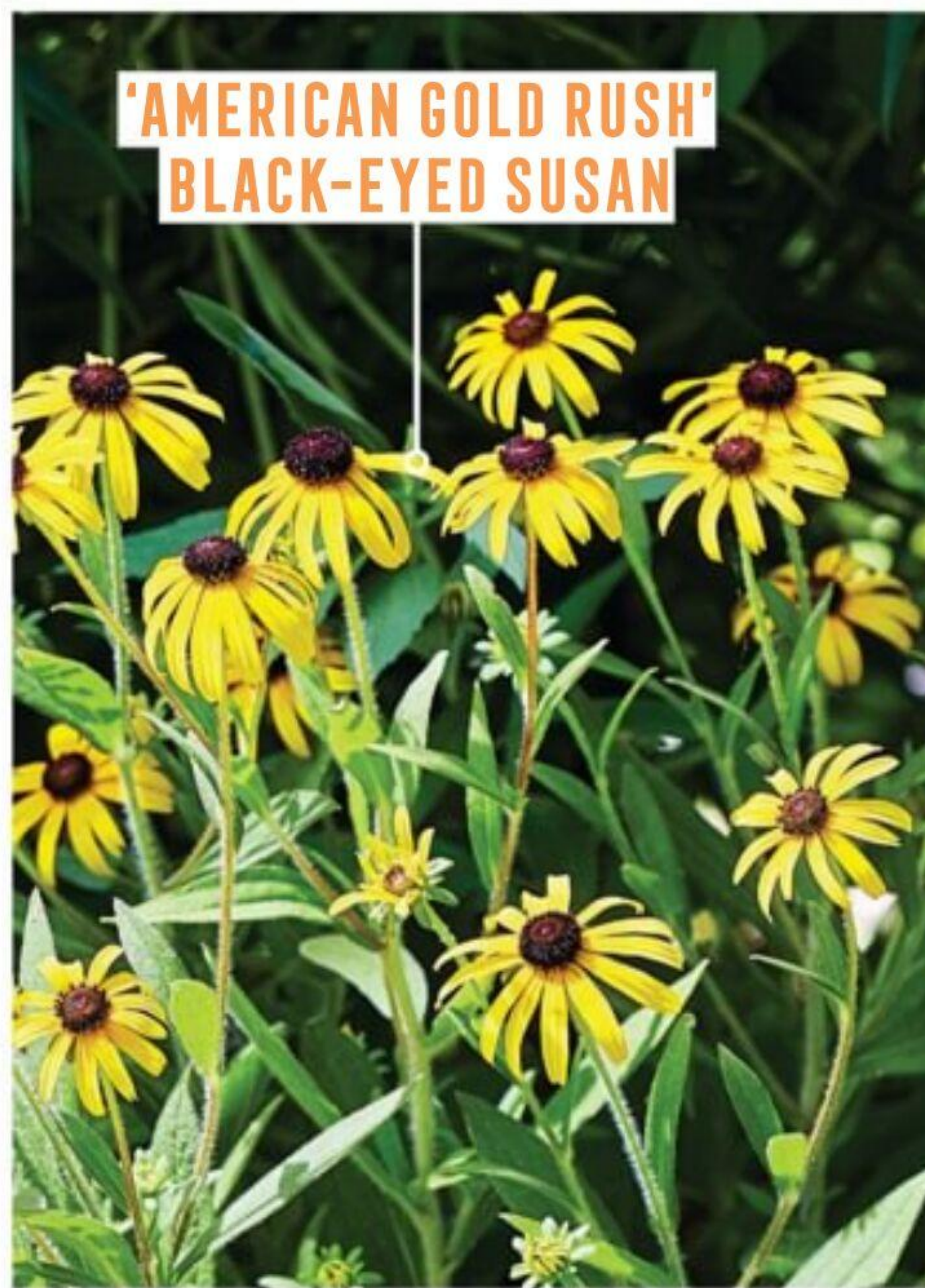
'CURTAIN CALL DEEP ROSE' ANEMONE



'CORDIAL CANARY'
BUGLEWEED



'SUGAR TIP'
ROSE OF SHARON



'AMERICAN GOLD RUSH'
BLACK-EYED SUSAN



'ICE N' ROSES RED'
HELLEBORE



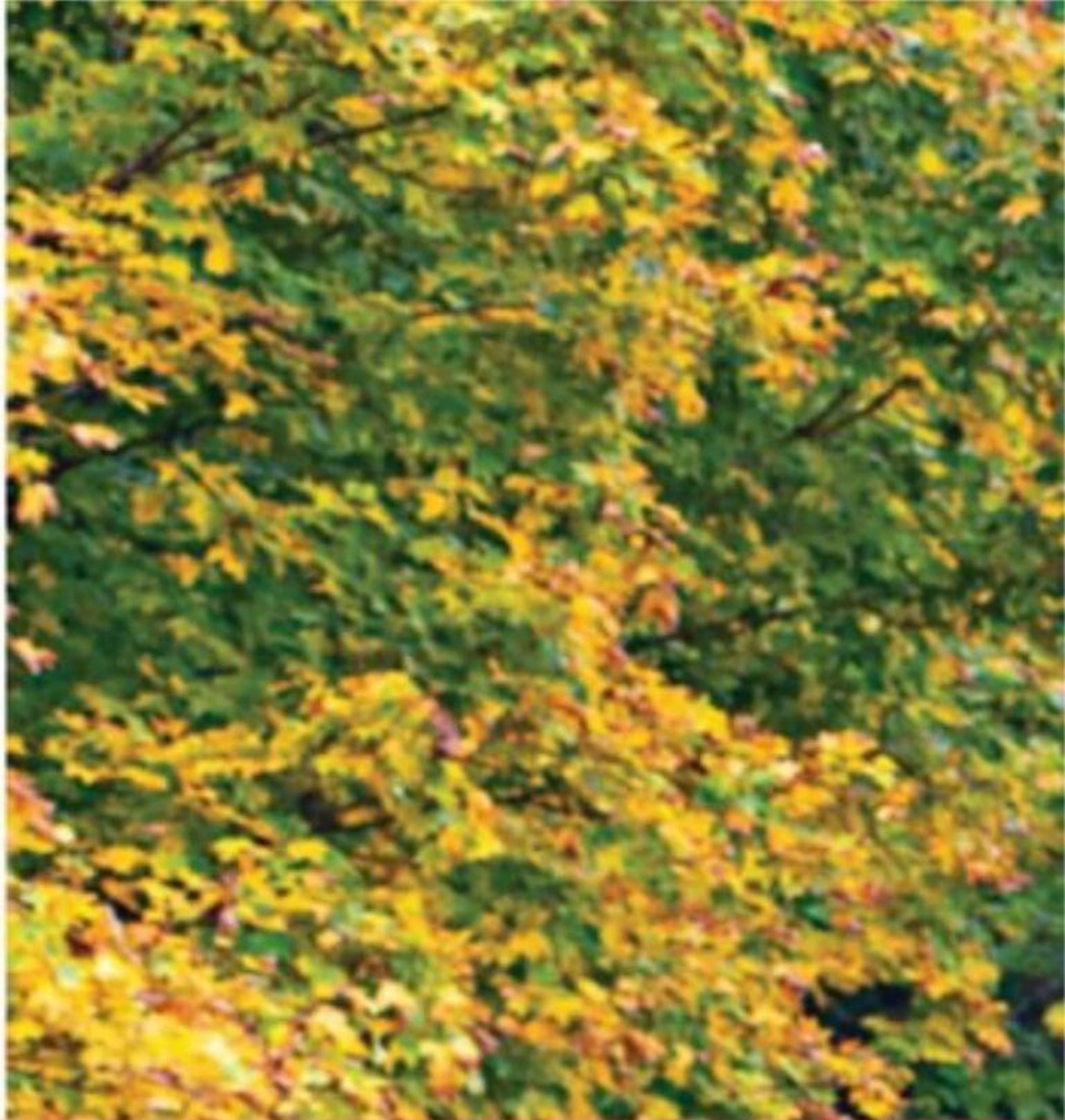
'STANDING OVATION'
LITTLE BLUESTEM



'SOMBRERO ADOBE
ORANGE' CONEFLOWER



'AUREOLA'
HAKONE GRASS



SUN'S OUT

ENJOY A SEASON-LONG PARADE OF COLORFUL FLOWERS WITH PLANTING PLANS FOR FULL SUN SITES.

Bright sunlight has all kinds of benefits. Primarily, it ignites rapid growth and spurs plants to unfurl countless flowers during the growing season. Expect annuals, perennials, and shrubs planted in full sun to expand faster than their shade-friendly counterparts.

The amount of sunlight available in a garden is a key factor in choosing the right plant for the space. A landscape that receives 6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day is classified as a full sun planting site. Locations with less than 6 hours of sunlight are deemed part shade or shade sites. The full sun planting plans featured here include plants that thrive in direct sunlight from dawn to dusk. The more light the better for these sun-lovers.

When considering how much sunlight your landscape receives, be mindful of nearby trees and buildings that can cast shadows on beds and borders. Watch the sun move through the landscape for an entire day, noting where shade falls and for how long. Areas that receive at least 6 hours of direct, bright sunlight are perfect for the plans on the following pages.

RIGHT: Sun-loving plants like the orange zinnias and cannas and yellow dahlias in this bed can be spurred to rebloom several times throughout the growing season: Snip off the faded flowers and new ones will emerge.



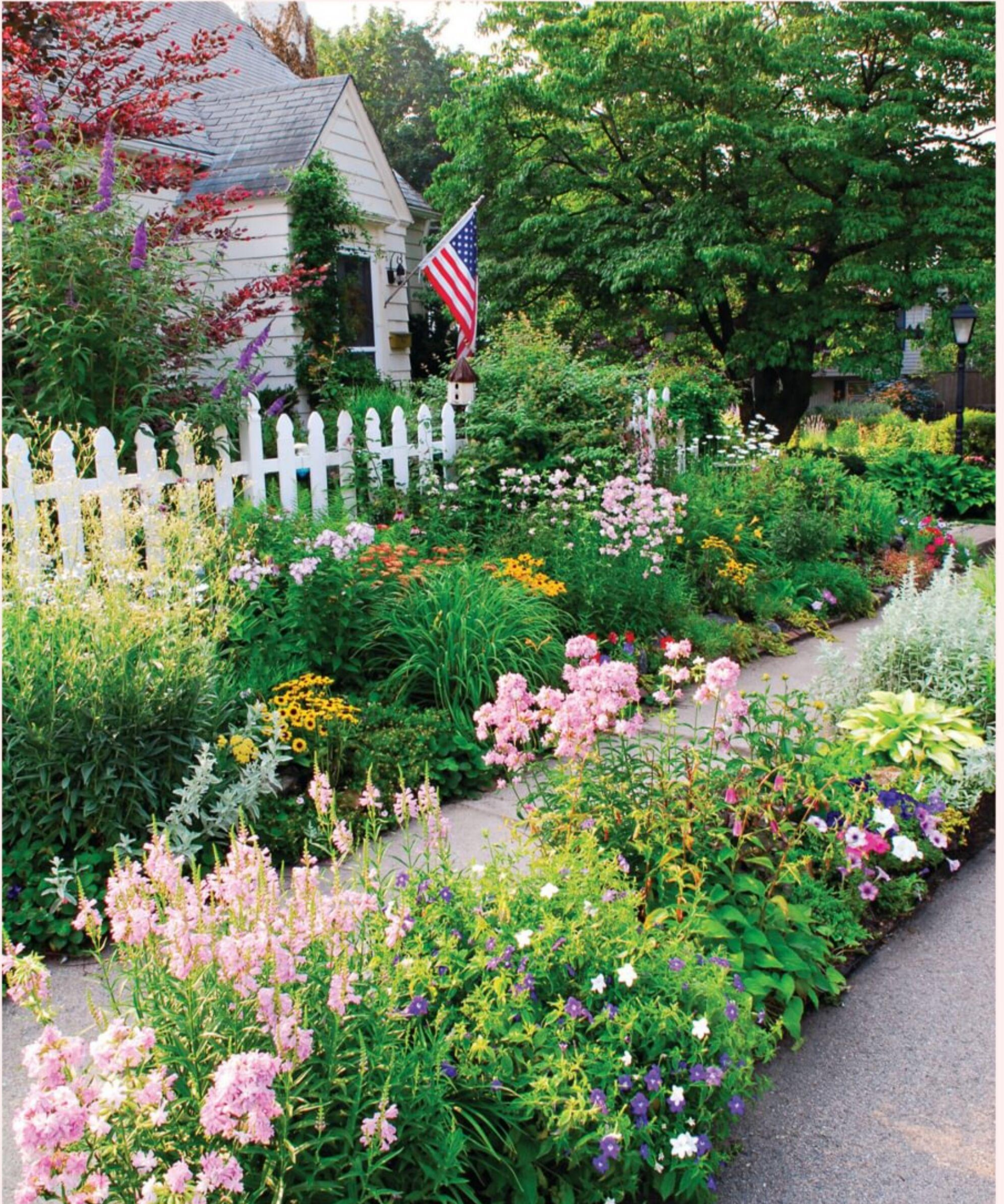
PHOTO: KINDRA CLINEFF

FULL SUN



PERENNIAL WELCOME

GIVE GUESTS A FLORAL GREETING BY PLANTING NEAR WALKWAYS AND CURBS.
A MIX OF PERENNIALS CREATES A MONTHSLONG PARADE OF COLOR.



know&grow

DIVIDING PERENNIALS

Some perennials benefit from division every three or four years. Use these tips to divide with confidence.

When to divide

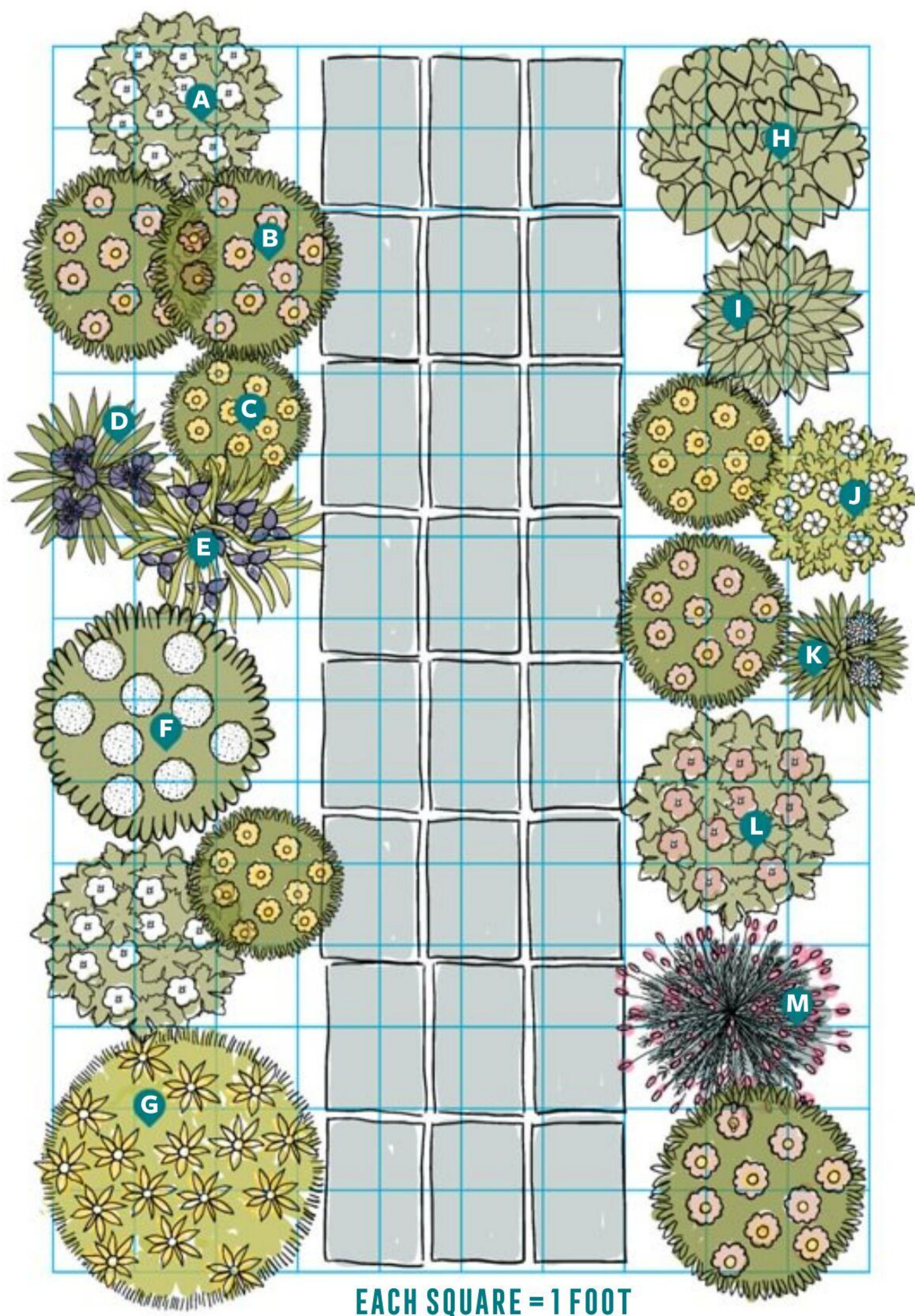
- If a plant has limited growing space, it is time to divide. Giving a perennial more room also helps prevent pests and diseases.
- Reduced flowering on an otherwise healthy plant is a sign that it might be time to divide.
- Some perennials, such as Siberian iris, die out in the center. Dig and divide these plants, discarding the dead center section.
- The best times to divide perennials are early spring right after they emerge or early fall. Moderate temperatures and regular moisture in spring and fall encourage the divisions to establish quickly in their new growing location.

How to divide

- Begin by digging up the entire plant. Using a sharp spade, slice through the roots on the exterior of the root ball and lift the plant out of the ground.
- Use the sharp spade or a garden fork to cut through the root ball, separating the plant into three or four large divisions, each with adequate foliage and roots.
- Replant each division in the garden immediately, spacing it thoughtfully so it has room to grow for several years. Water the newly planted divisions deeply and cover the root zone with a 2-inch-thick layer of mulch.

Easy-to-divide perennials

Make more plants for your garden or to share with friends. These perennials tolerate division well and rapidly thrive in their new locations: aster, bee balm, catmint, coreopsis, daylily, hosta, Siberian iris, sedum, yarrow.



plant list

- A** 2 **Shasta daisy** (*Leucanthemum x superbum*) such as 'Becky'; Zones 5–9
- B** 3 **Soapwort** (*Saponaria officinalis*) such as 'Flore Pleno'; Zones 3–8
- C** 3 **Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia* spp.) such as 'American Gold Rush'; Zones 3–9
- D** 1 **Yarrow** (*Achillea* spp.) such as 'Paprika'; Zones 3–8
- E** 1 **Daylily** (*Hemerocallis* spp.); Zones 3–9
- F** 1 **Garden phlox** (*Phlox paniculata*) such as 'Laura'; Zones 4–8
- G** 1 **Baby's breath** (*Gypsophila paniculata*) such as 'Perfekta'; Zones 3–9
- H** 1 **White sage** (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) such as 'Silver King'; Zones 4–9
- I** 1 **Hosta** (*Hosta* spp.); Zones 3–8
- J** 1 **Petunia** (*Petunia* hybrid) such as 'Wave Purple Classic'; Annual
- K** 1 **Bellflower** (*Campanula* hybrid) such as 'Kent Belle'; Zones 5–9
- L** 1 **Bush violet** (*Browallia speciosa*); Annual
- M** 1 **Obedient plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*) such as 'Pink Manners'; Zones 3–9

tip

NO FRONT SIDEWALK? NO PROBLEM. PLANT THIS BORDER ALONG A PATIO, ENTRYWAY, OR BACKYARD PATH. OR CREATE A RIBBON OF COLOR IN ANY FULL SUN LANDSCAPE SITE.

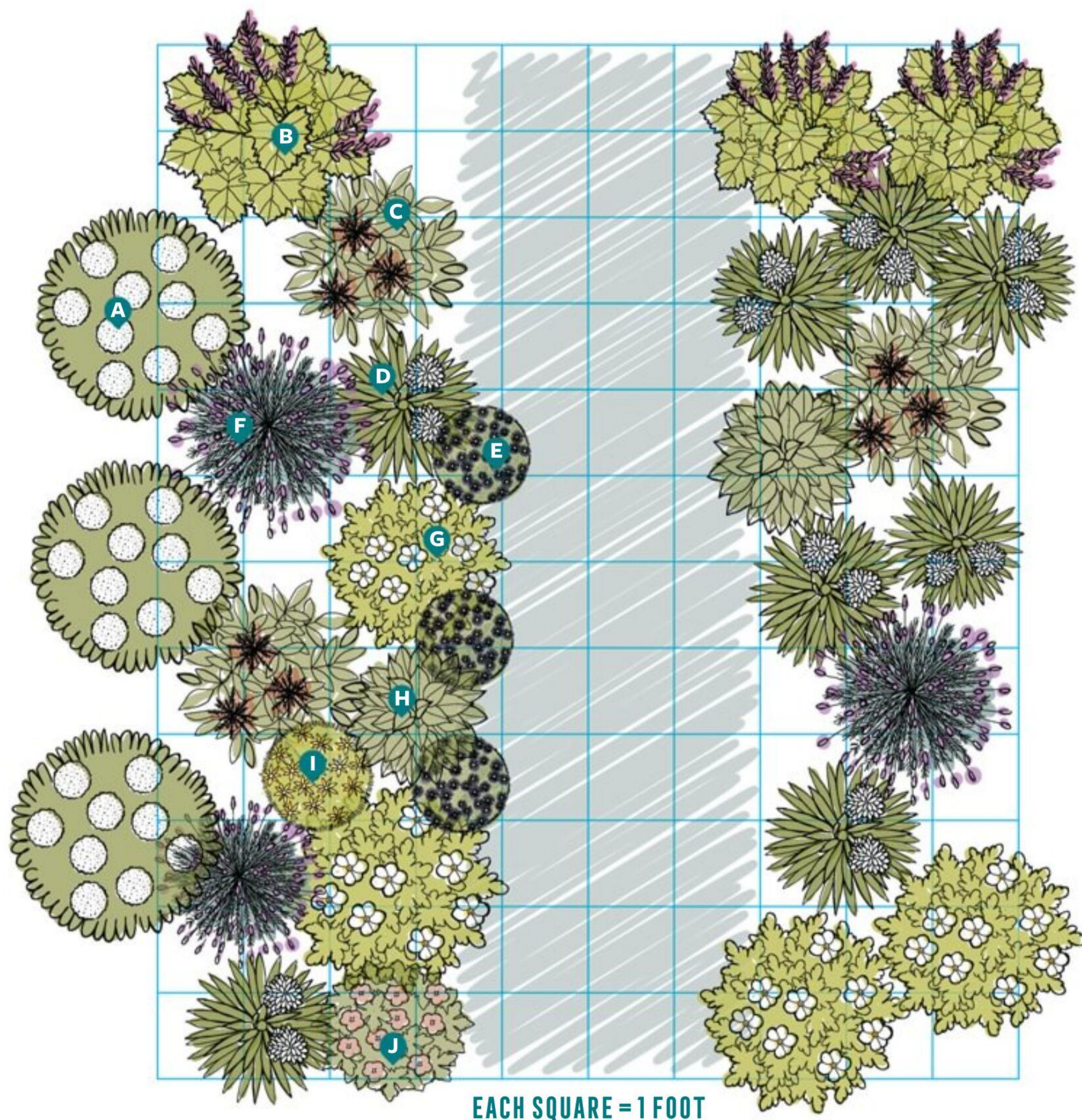
SUMMER SPLENDOR

A NEARLY CAREFREE MIX OF PLANTS GROWS CLOSE TOGETHER TO CHOKE OUT WEEDS AND EFFORTLESSLY CREATE A ROMANTIC COTTAGE GARDEN.





PHOTO: DANA GALLAGHER

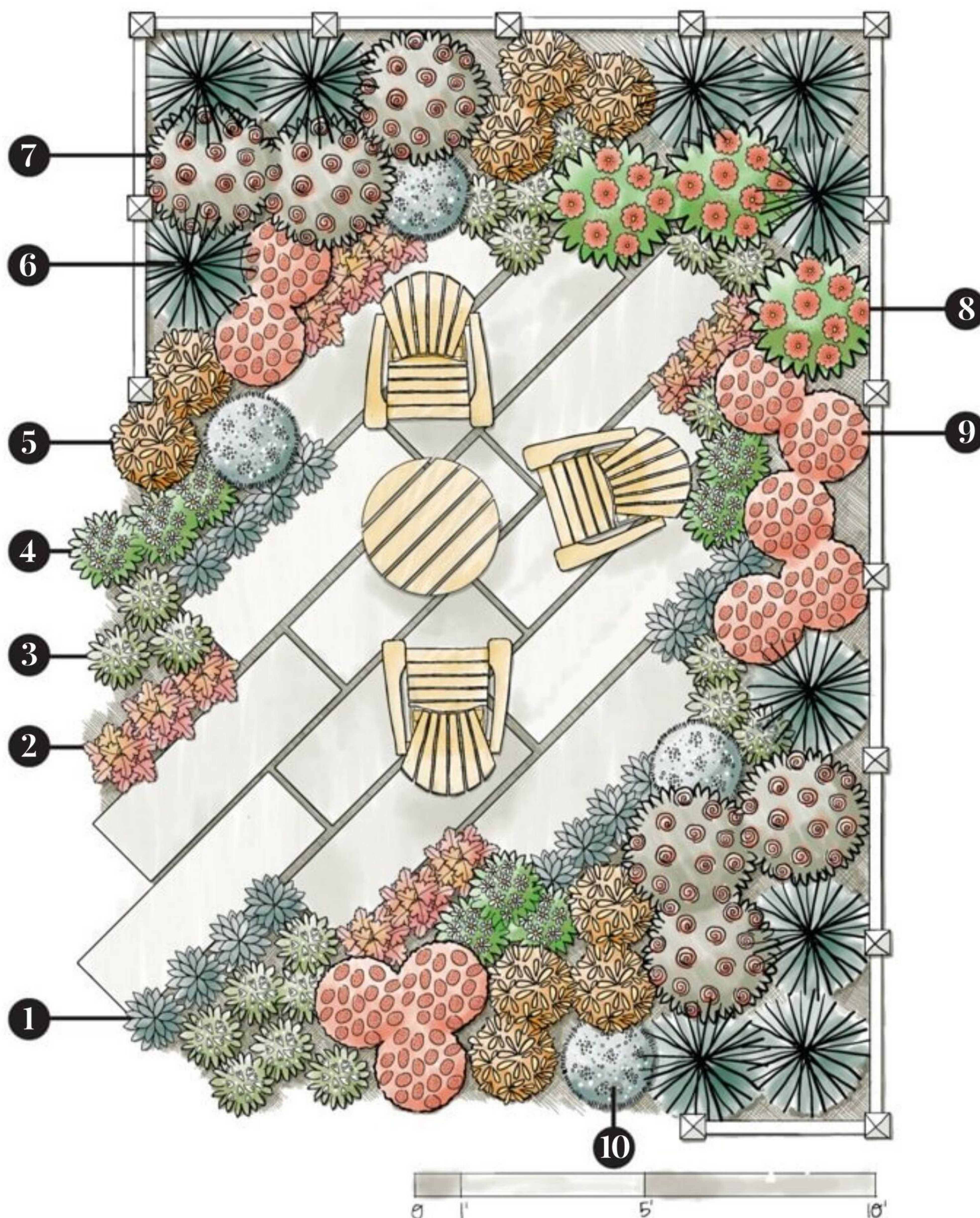


plant list

- A** 3 Panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) such as 'Limelight'; Zones 3–8
- B** 3 Joe pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.) such as 'Little Joe'; Zones 3–9
- C** 3 Sage (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Caradonna'; Zones 4–8
- D** 8 Ornamental onion (*Allium* spp.) such as 'Millenium'; Zones 5–8
- E** 3 Creeping thyme (*Thymus praecox*) such as 'Coccineus'; Zones 5–8
- F** 3 Spider flower (*Cleome* hybrid) such as 'Senorita Rosalita'; Annual
- G** 4 Calamint (*Calamintha nepeta*); Zones 5–9
- H** 2 Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*); Zones 3–8
- I** 1 Flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana sylvestris*); Annual
- J** 1 Cranesbill (*Geranium* hybrid) such as 'Rozanne'; Zones 5–8

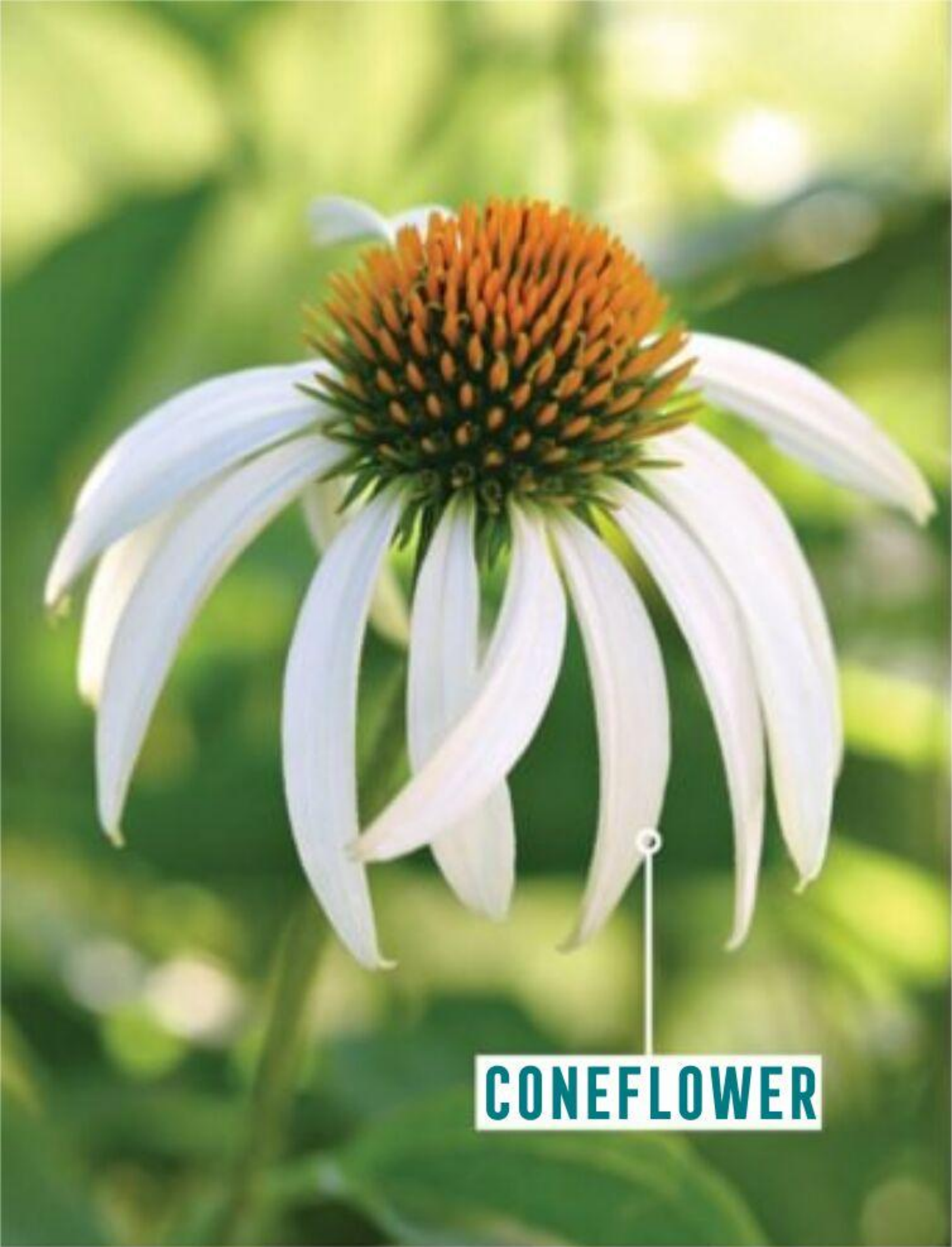
FRESH CUTS

WRAP A SUN-DRENCHED PATIO—OR ANY ALFRESCO LOUNGING SPOT—WITH A CUTTING GARDEN. ENJOY THE BLOSSOMS OUTSIDE AND INSIDE!

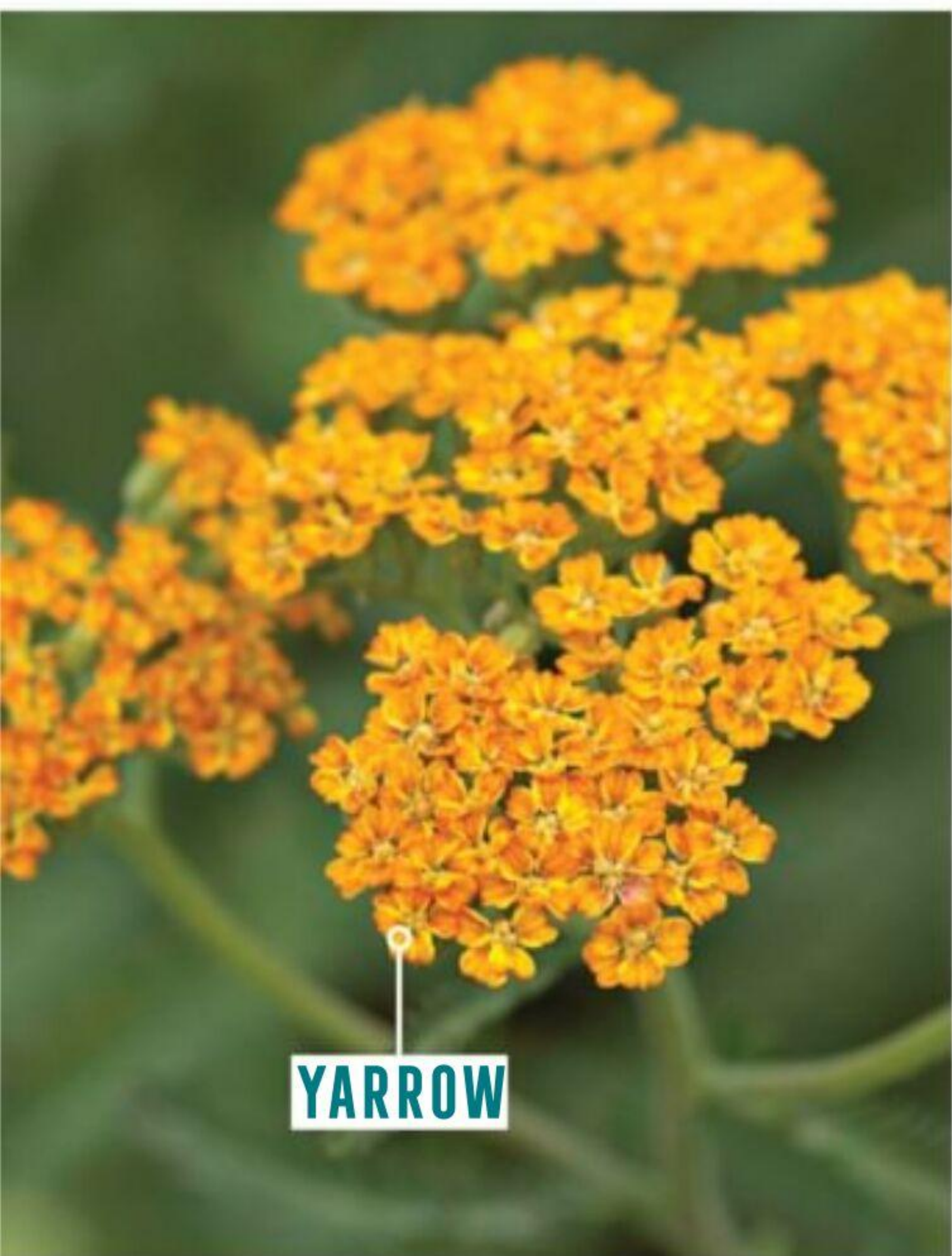


plant list

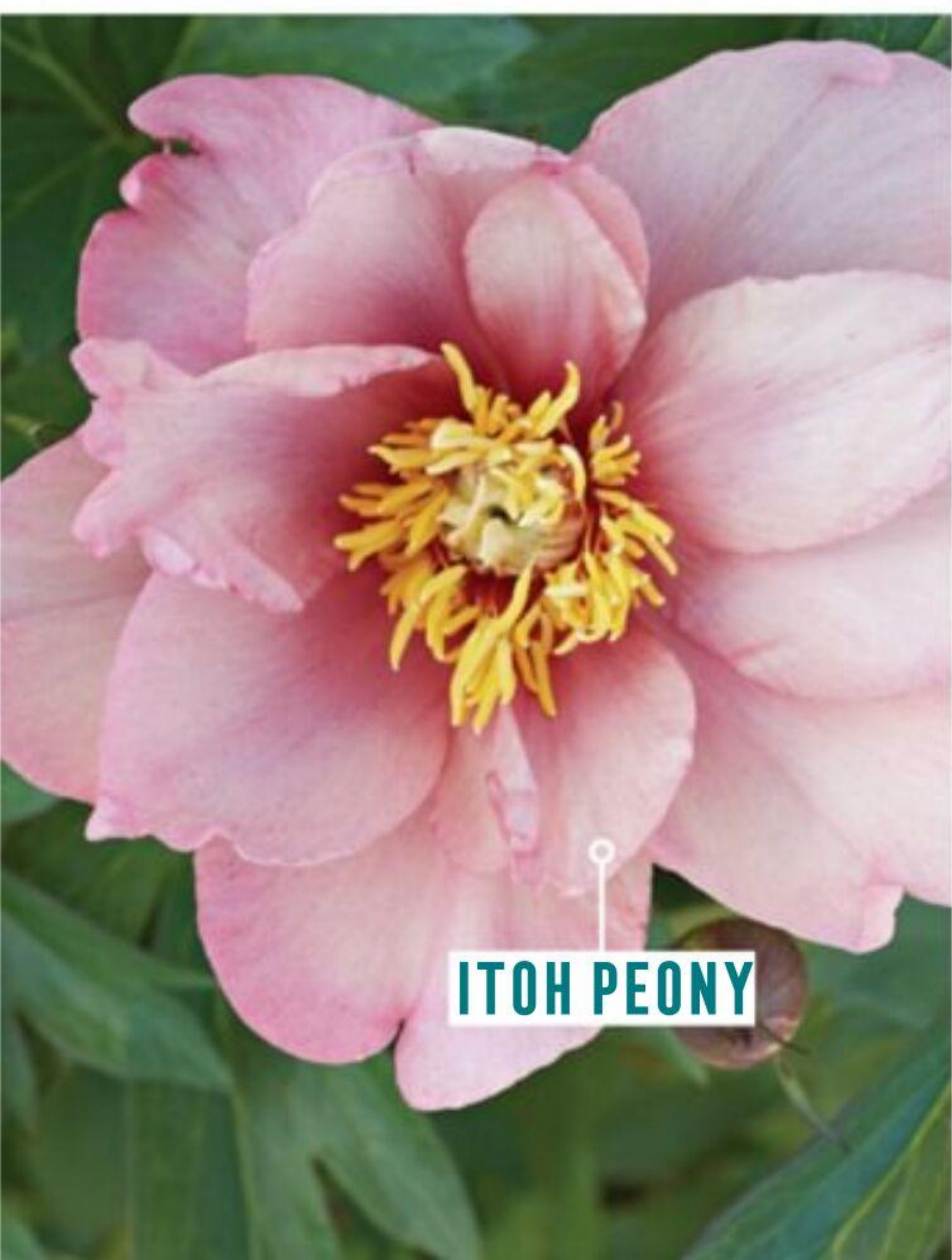
- 1 Lamb's-ears** (*Stachys byzantina*) such as 'Big Ears'; Zones 4–9
- 2 Foamy bells** (x *Heucherella* hybrid) such as 'Copper King'; Zones 4–9
- 3 Sage** (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Apex White'; Zones 4–9
- 4 White coneflower** (*Echinacea purpurea*) such as 'PowWow White'; Zones 3–8
- 5 Dwarf hybrid hyssop** (*Agastache* hybrid) such as 'Kudos Gold'; Zones 5–10
- 6 Switch grass** (*Panicum virgatum*) such as 'Northwind'; Zones 5–9
- 7 Light orange shrub rose** (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Nitty Gritty Peach'; Zones 4–9
- 8 Pink Itoh peony** (*Paeonia* hybrid) such as 'Garden Candy Summer Sunset'; Zones 4–9
- 9 Yarrow** (*Achillea* hybrid) such as 'Firefly Peach Sky'; Zones 3–8
- 10 Pearly everlasting** (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) such as 'New Snow'; Zones 3–8



CONEFLOWER



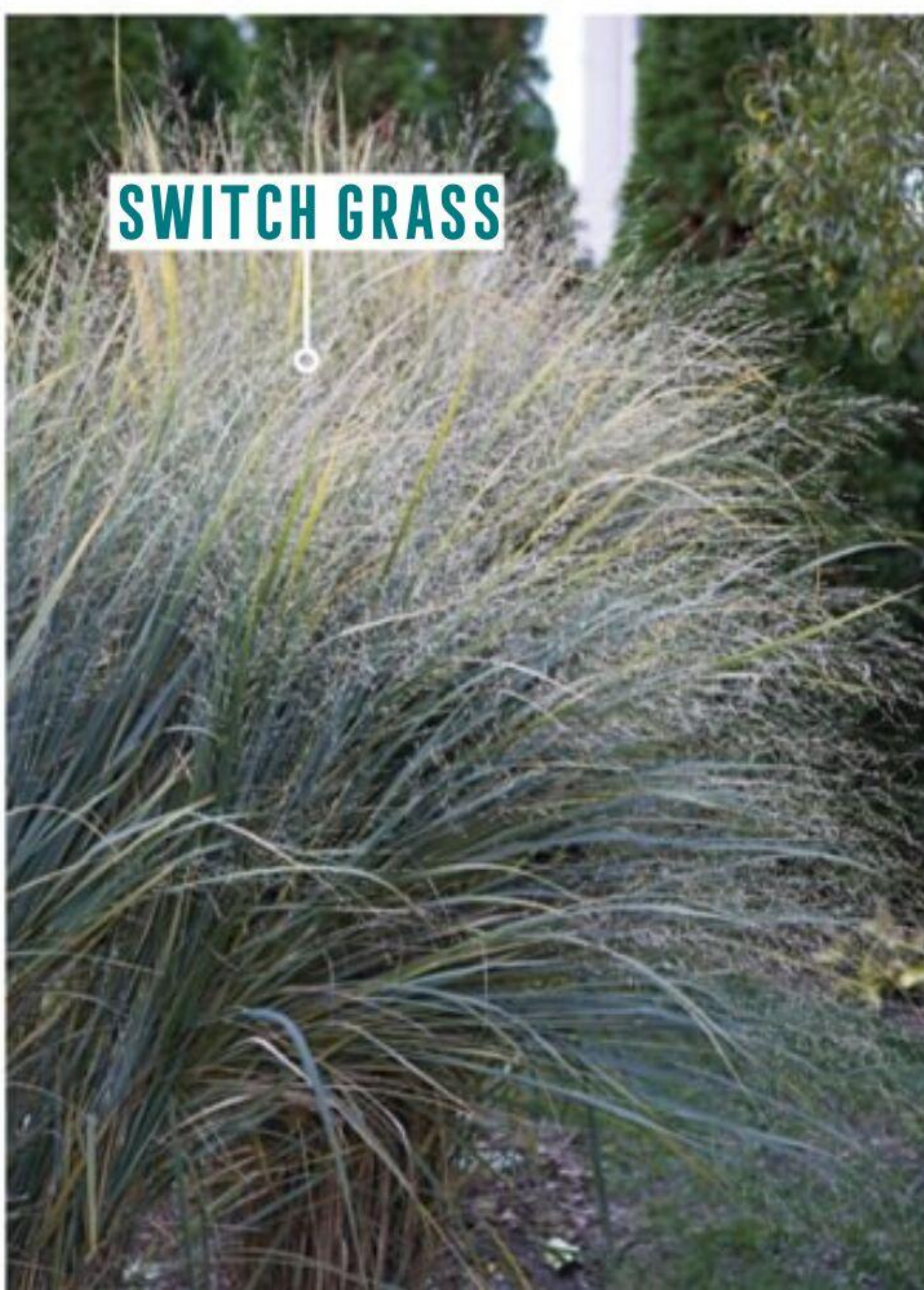
YARROW



ITOH PEONY



SHRUB ROSE



SWITCH GRASS

FULL SUN

plant facts

PLANT FOR BOUQUETS

GET AN EARLY START

Spring-blooming bulbs, such as daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips, will provide armloads of fresh stems as the soil warms. Bulbs are perennial—many bloom every spring for decades. Plant bulbs in fall before the ground freezes.

INCLUDE FOLIAGE

Known as “fillers” in the floral trade, striking leaves and stems are the costars in every great bouquet. Include ornamental grasses along with shrubs like spirea, holly, and boxwood in a cutting garden for filler.

ADD FLOWERS FOR DRYING

Enjoy the beauty of a cutting garden year-round by including flowers that keep their color and shape when dried. Globe amaranth, statice, celosia, and hydrangea all dry well.

SCATTER A PACKET OF SEED

Inexpensive and easy to grow from a packet of seeds, zinnia or sunflower will provide weeks of colorful bouquets.

YEAR-ROUND ROOTS

NEATLY CLIPPED EVERGREEN BOXWOOD SHRUBS PROVIDE GARDEN STRUCTURE AND A PLEASING BACKDROP FOR SUMMER FLOWERS.

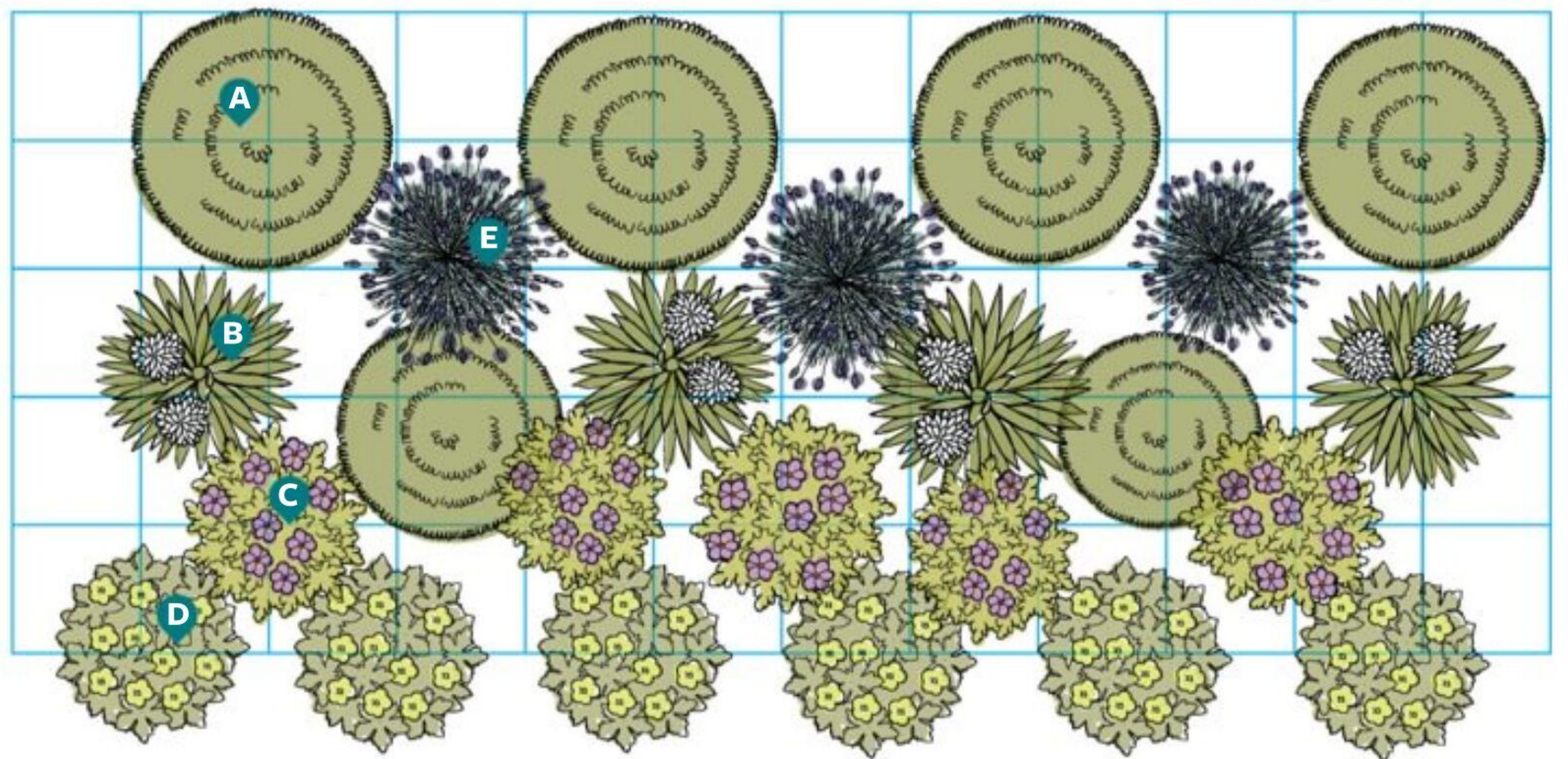


PHOTOS: MARION BRENNER

plant list

- A** 6 Boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) such as 'Green Mound'; Zones 5–8
- B** 4 Bearded iris (*Iris* hybrid) such as 'Blueberry Bliss'; Zones 3–9
- C** 5 Canterbury bells (*Campanula medium*) such as 'Champion Blue'; Zones 3–9
- D** 6 Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*); Zones 3–8
- E** 3 Sage (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Caradonna'; Zones 4–8

EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT



tip

EXPAND THIS BED PLAN TO FIT A LARGER PLANTING SITE BY REPEATING THE PLANT COMBINATIONS AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY.

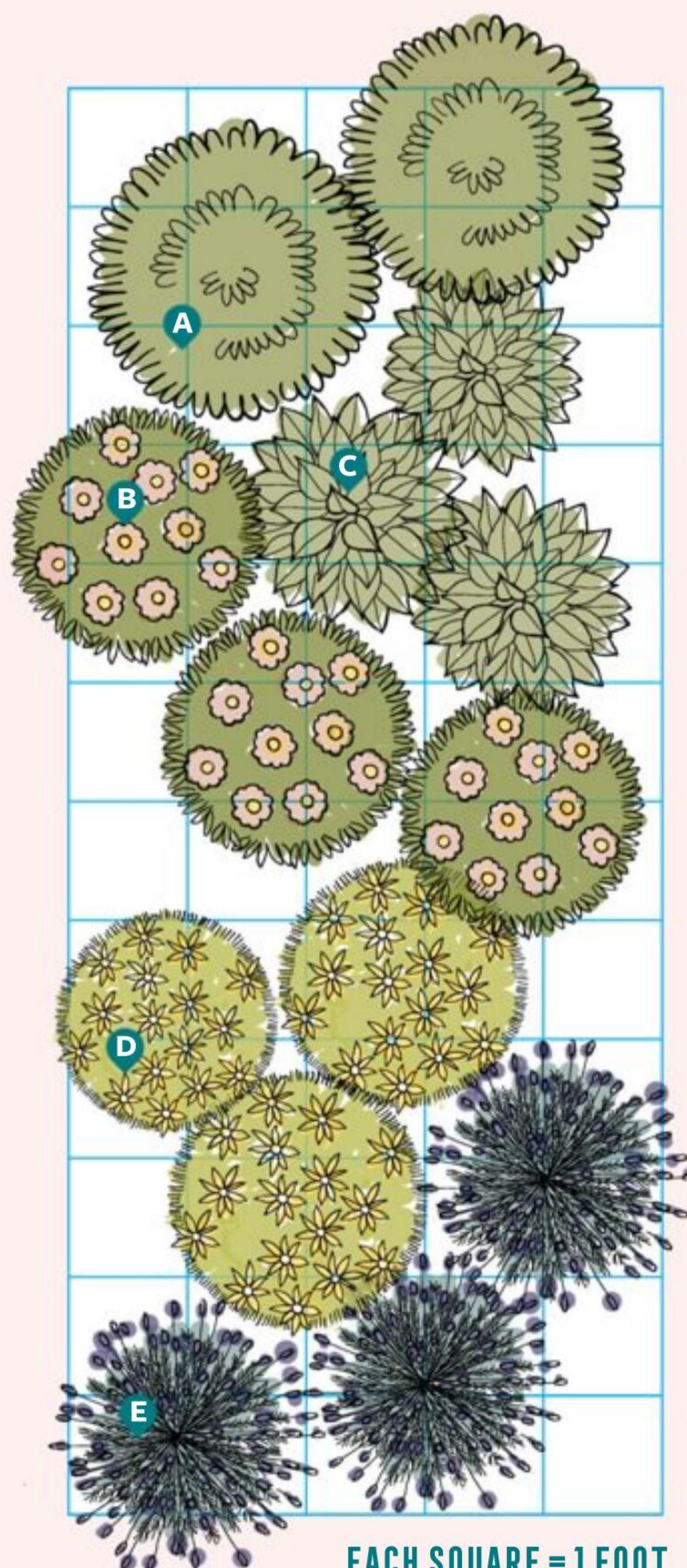
ENGAGE THE SENSES

BREATHE IN THE CALMING SCENT OF LAVENDER AS YOU MEANDER THROUGH THIS GARDEN BED. CUT AND DRY STEMS TO ENJOY THROUGH WINTER.



plant list

- A 2 Bluebeard** (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*) such as 'La Barbe Bleue'; Zones 5–9
- B 3 Purple coneflower** (*Echinacea purpurea*) such as 'Magnus'; Zones 3–8
- C 3 Lamb's-ears** (*Stachys byzantina*) such as 'Fuzzy Wuzzy'; Zones 4–8
- D 3 Yarrow** (*Achillea* hybrid) such as 'Moonshine'; Zones 3–8
- E 3 Lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*) such as 'Munstead'; Zones 5–8



know&grow

ADD A PATH

The best way to experience a garden is to walk through it—brush against the plants, study intricate flowers closely, and glimpse emerging plant life. Make a walkway through your bed or border with these path-building tips.

ESTABLISH A DESTINATION

Begin designing your garden path by identifying the destination, then work backward to the beginning of the path. Aim to create a simple route with gentle curves or straight lines so visitors can focus on the plants and not navigating the path.

CHOOSE YOUR MATERIAL

A 6- to 8-inch-thick layer of mulch, such as shredded bark or pine needles, is the most cost-effective and easy-to-establish path surface, but regular maintenance will be necessary. Gravel and reclaimed brick or flagstone can be great options as well.

BE READY FOR WEEDS

Except in concrete paths, weeds are going to pop up from time to time. Catch them early and pull them gently by hand to avoid disturbing the soil beneath.

MIX AND MINGLE

AN UNFUSSY COMBINATION OF VIGOROUS PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS COMES TOGETHER TO CREATE A GARDEN PARTY FILLED WITH COLOR AND TEXTURE.



green gardening

GARDENING WITH DEER

Deer are delightful to watch from a distance, but when they treat your garden as their nightly buffet, the delight diminishes quickly. Use these tips to garden alongside deer.

Keep them out

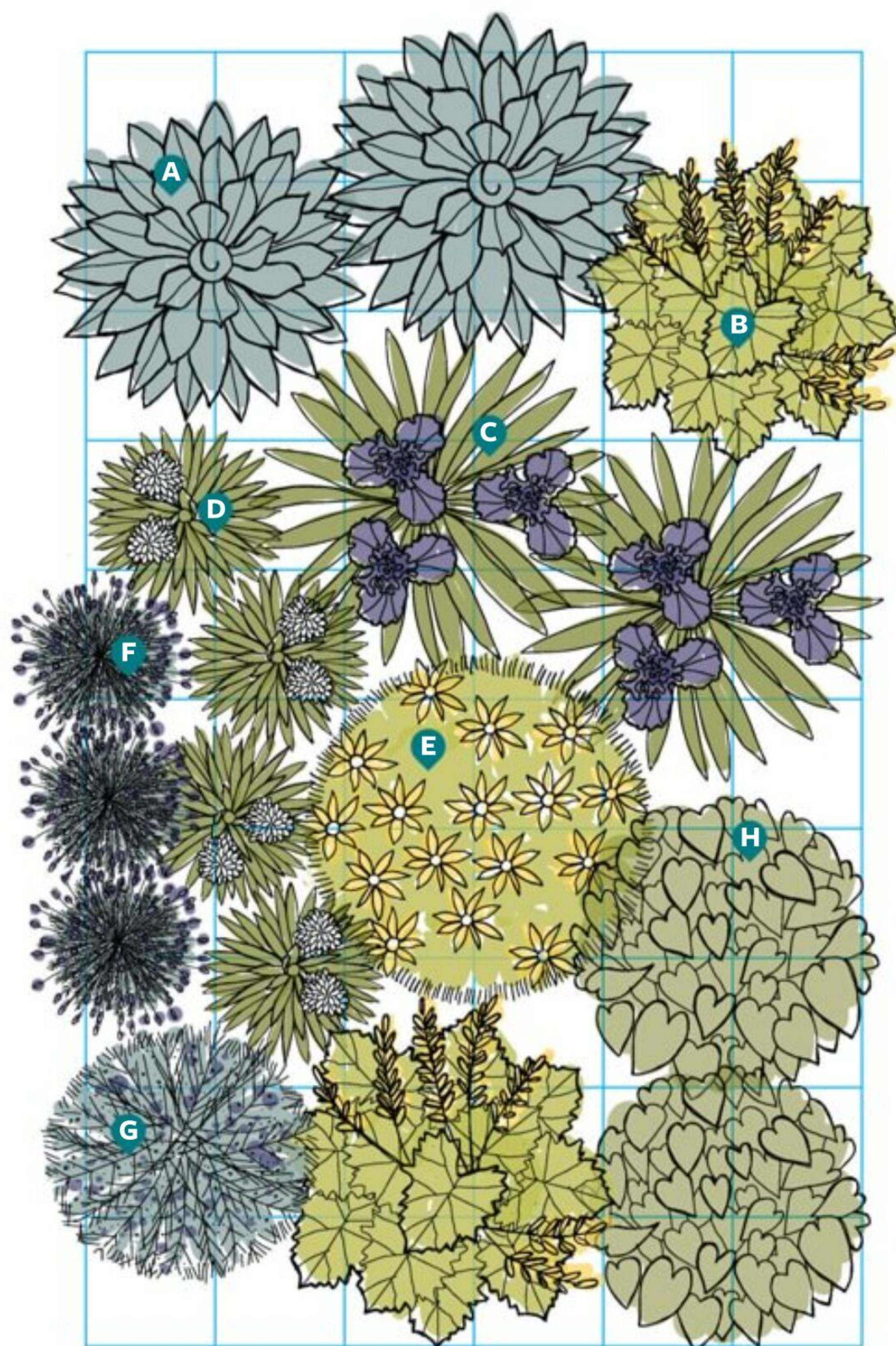
- Prevent deer from browsing single plants or small groups of plants by wrapping plants with netting or mesh fencing.
- Enclose your garden with an 8-foot-tall fence. Although costly and time-consuming to erect, a tall, sturdy fence is the only way to exclude deer.

Use repellants

- Liquid repellants, available at garden centers, contain offensive smells and flavors that deter deer.
- Apply repellants to frequently munched plants every two weeks and after every rain.
- Deer begin to tolerate repellant they encounter repeatedly. If a product is no longer effective, try a different formulation.

Choose resistant plants

- Some plants, due to their texture, scent, or taste, are less palatable to deer. However, when deer are hungry, they will eat any plant—even those considered deer-resistant.
- Deer-resistant perennials include anise hyssop, bee balm, blue star, carex, coreopsis, false indigo, hellebore, lavender, ornamental onion, Russian sage, salvia, and yarrow.



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 2 **Blue star** (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) such as 'Midway to Montana'; Zones 4–9
- B** 2 **Sage** (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Caradonna'; Zones 4–8
- C** 2 **Clustered bellflower** (*Campanula glomerata*) such as 'Superba'; Zones 3–8
- D** 4 **Ornamental onion** (*Allium* spp.) such as 'White Giant'; Zones 4–9
- E** 1 **Bowman's root** (*Gillenia trifoliata*); Zones 4–8
- F** 3 **Blazing star** (*Liatris spicata*) such as 'Kobold'; Zones 3–8
- G** 1 **Salvia** (*Salvia* hybrid) such as 'Color Spires Pink Dawn'; Zones 3–8
- H** 1 **Meadowsweet** (*Filipendula ulmaria*) such as 'Aurea'; Zones 3–8

tip

ALLOW THE PERENNIALS IN THIS BORDER TO GROW TOGETHER, CREATING A BILLOWING COTTAGE GARDEN WHERE WEEDS CAN'T GET A FOOTHOLD. MAINTAIN ORDER BY REMOVING OVERLY EXUBERANT PLANTS IN EARLY SPRING.



FULL SUN TOP 10

DAFFODIL

(*Narcissus* hybrids); Zones 4–8. Hundreds of varieties in shades of yellow and white. Deer-resistant and exceptionally long-lived.

DAYLILY

(*Hemerocallis* hybrid) such as ‘Stella de Oro’; Zones 3–10. Flowers rise above clean, grasslike foliage.

JAPANESE ANEMONE

(*Anemone* hybrid); Zones 4–8. Blooms for weeks in late summer.

NEW ENGLAND ASTER

(*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*); Zones 4–8. Native plant that blooms for weeks in fall.

ORNAMENTAL ONION

(*Allium giganteum*); Zones 5–8. Three- to 5-foot-tall plants are dramatic when planted in groups of at least five bulbs.

PEONY

(*Paeonia lactiflora*); Zones 3–8. Fragrant flowers open in late spring on 3-foot-tall and -wide plants.

SAGE

(*Salvia nemorosa*); Zones 4–8. Cut back faded flowers to spur rebloom in late summer.

SHASTA DAISY

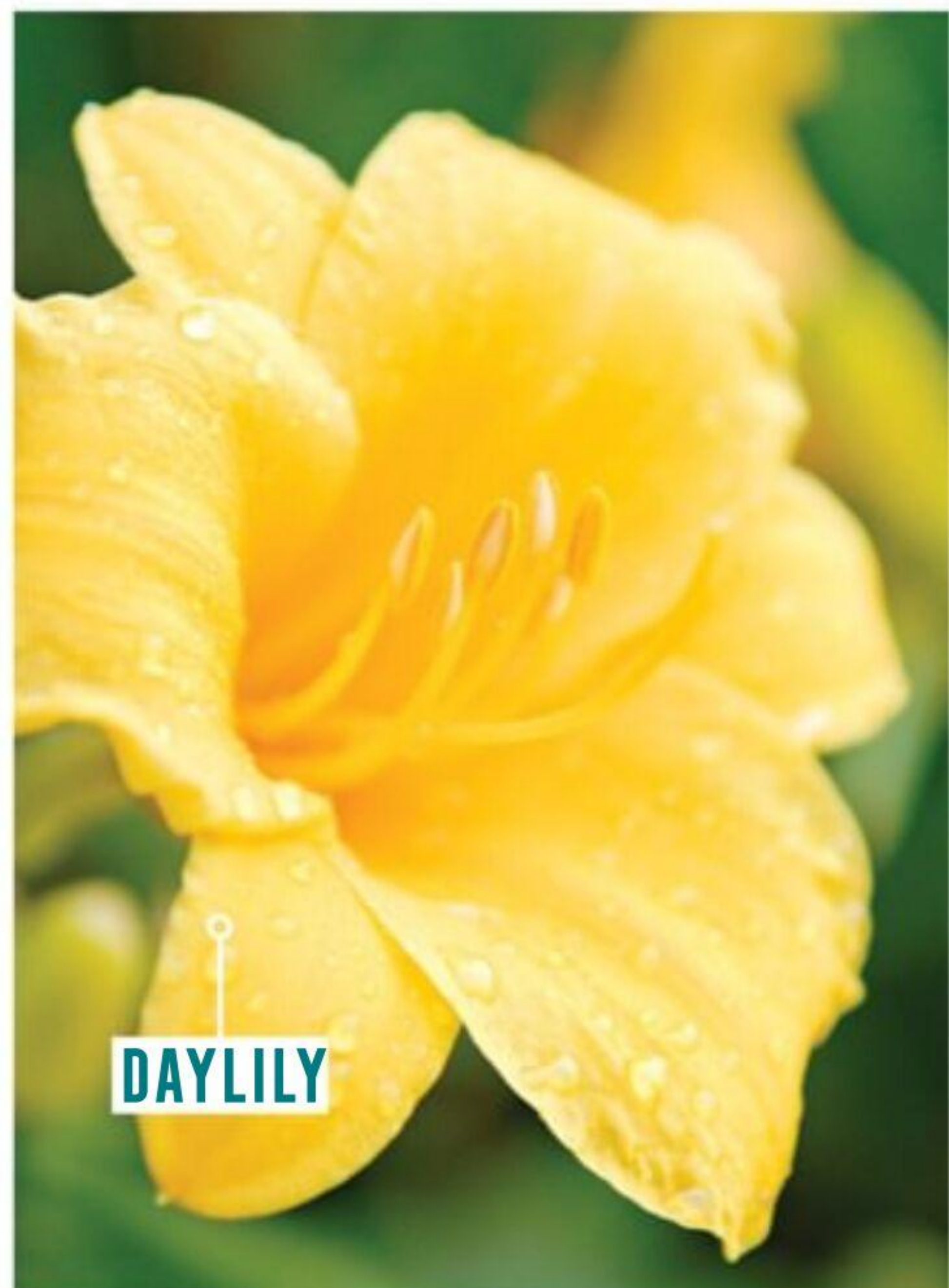
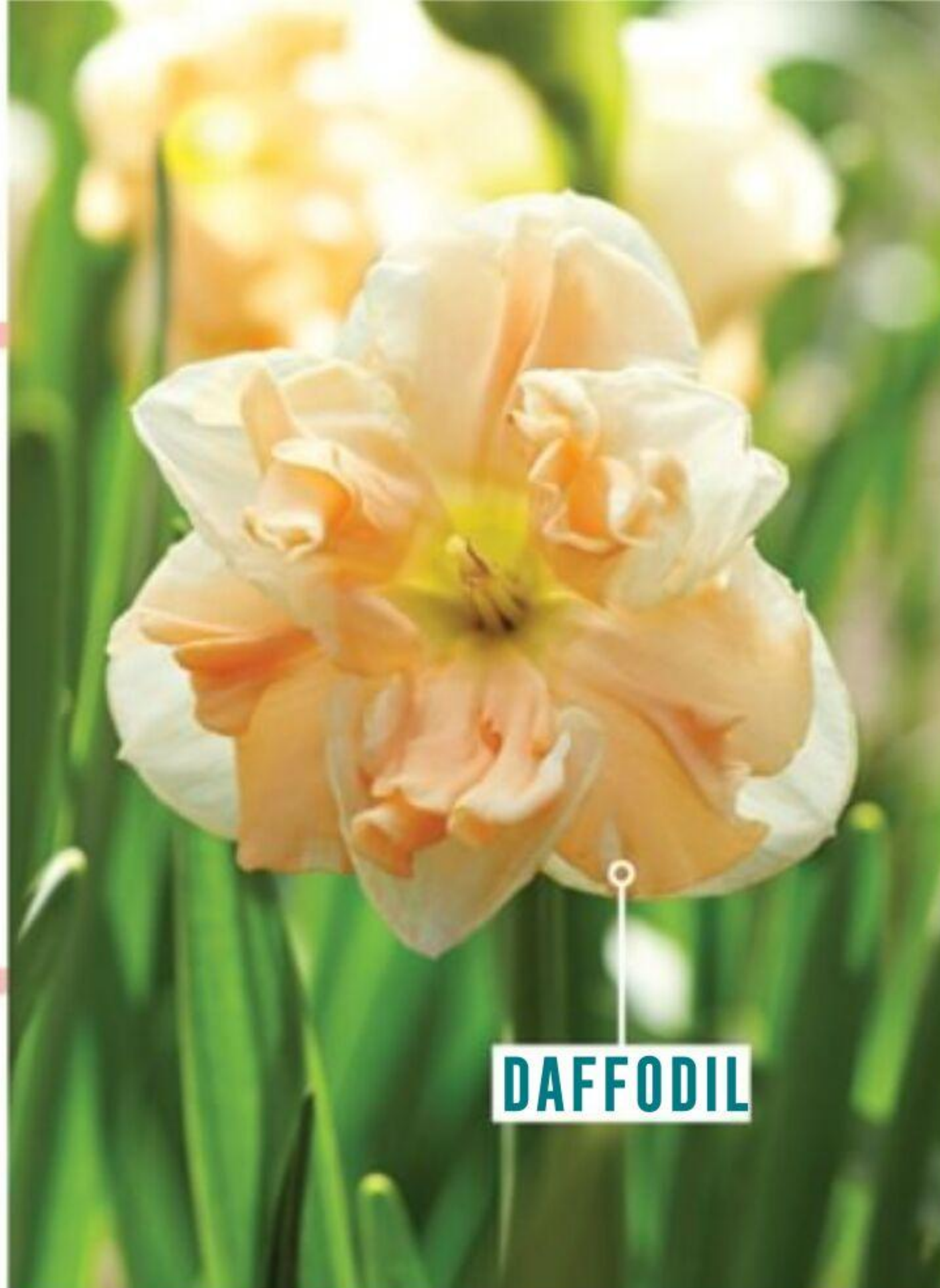
(*Leucanthemum x superbum*) such as ‘Becky’; Zones 5–9. Blooms for a month or more in early summer.

SWAMP ROSE MALLOW

(*Hibiscus moscheutos*); Zones 5–9. Shades of red, pink, or white flowers cover 3- to 7-foot-tall plants for weeks in late summer.

WEIGELA

(*Weigela florida*) such as ‘My Monet’; Zones 4–8. A fast-growing shrub that stands 2 to 5 feet tall. Blooms sporadically from summer through fall.



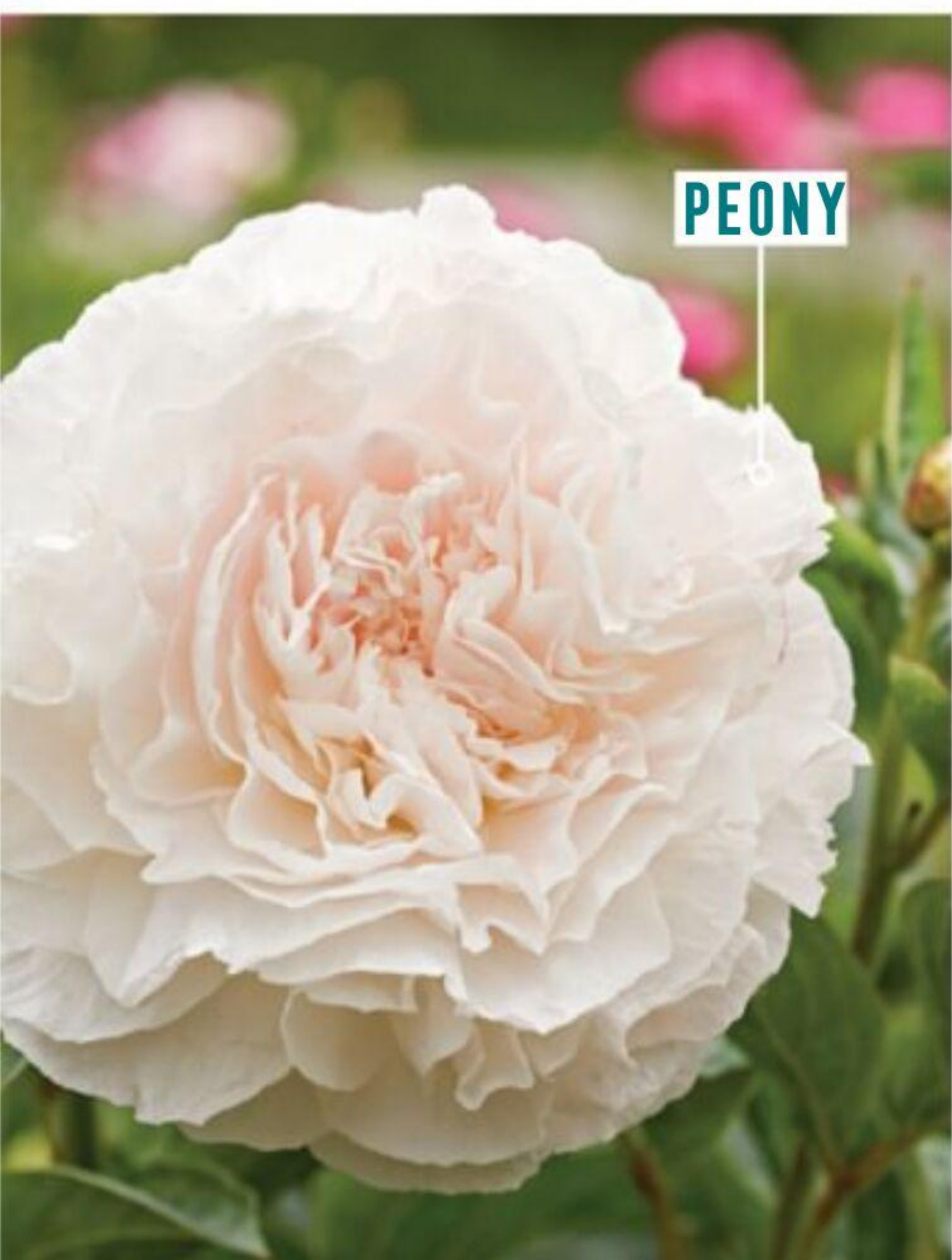


SAGE

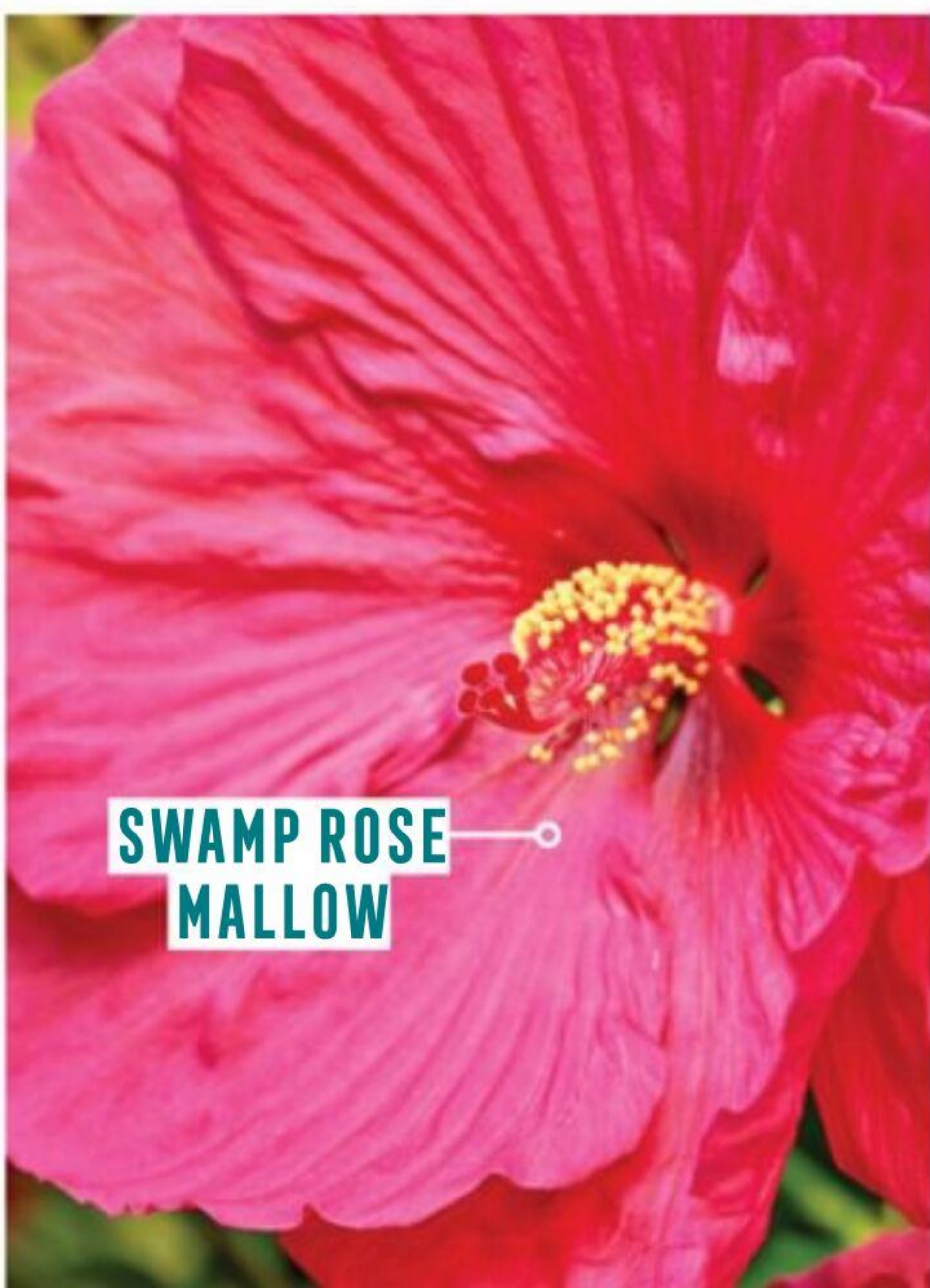


JAPANESE
ANEMONE

FULL SUN



PEONY



SWAMP ROSE
MALLOW



NEW ENGLAND
ASTER

low water HIGH COLOR

DROUGHT-TOLERANT BEDS AND BORDERS CAN BE FULL OF COLOR FROM SPRING TO FALL. THESE PLANS LEAD THE WAY TO A VIBRANT DRY LANDSCAPE.

A thriving garden is a partnership between place and plants. Making way for a beautiful garden in a dry landscape demands careful attention to place from the outset. Get to know the climate, soil, and light where you will plant a bed or border. Are the dry conditions due to lack of rainfall, exceptionally fast-draining soil, or maybe a combination of these two challenges? Are the summer and winter temperatures highly variable or is there a moderate temperature change from one season to the next?

Plants that live on the lean side of the moisture quotient are well-adapted to long stretches without a drop of rain. They have internal structure for storing captured moisture and magnificent methods of mediating moisture loss. Partner drought-tolerant plants with a dry site and prepare to watch the ecosystem come alive. Nearby wildlife will have new sources of food and shelter, but it isn't just the critters that will benefit. You—the gardener—will be dazzled by colors and textures that draw you out into the lush, vibrant, dry landscape.

RIGHT: Call on drought-tolerant groundcovers, such as the woolly thyme growing between the stepping stones in this garden, to add a feeling of lushness to a dry landscape. Groundcovers will creep between plants, choking out weeds while cooling the root zones of nearby plants.

PHOTO: SAXON HOLT

LOW WATER



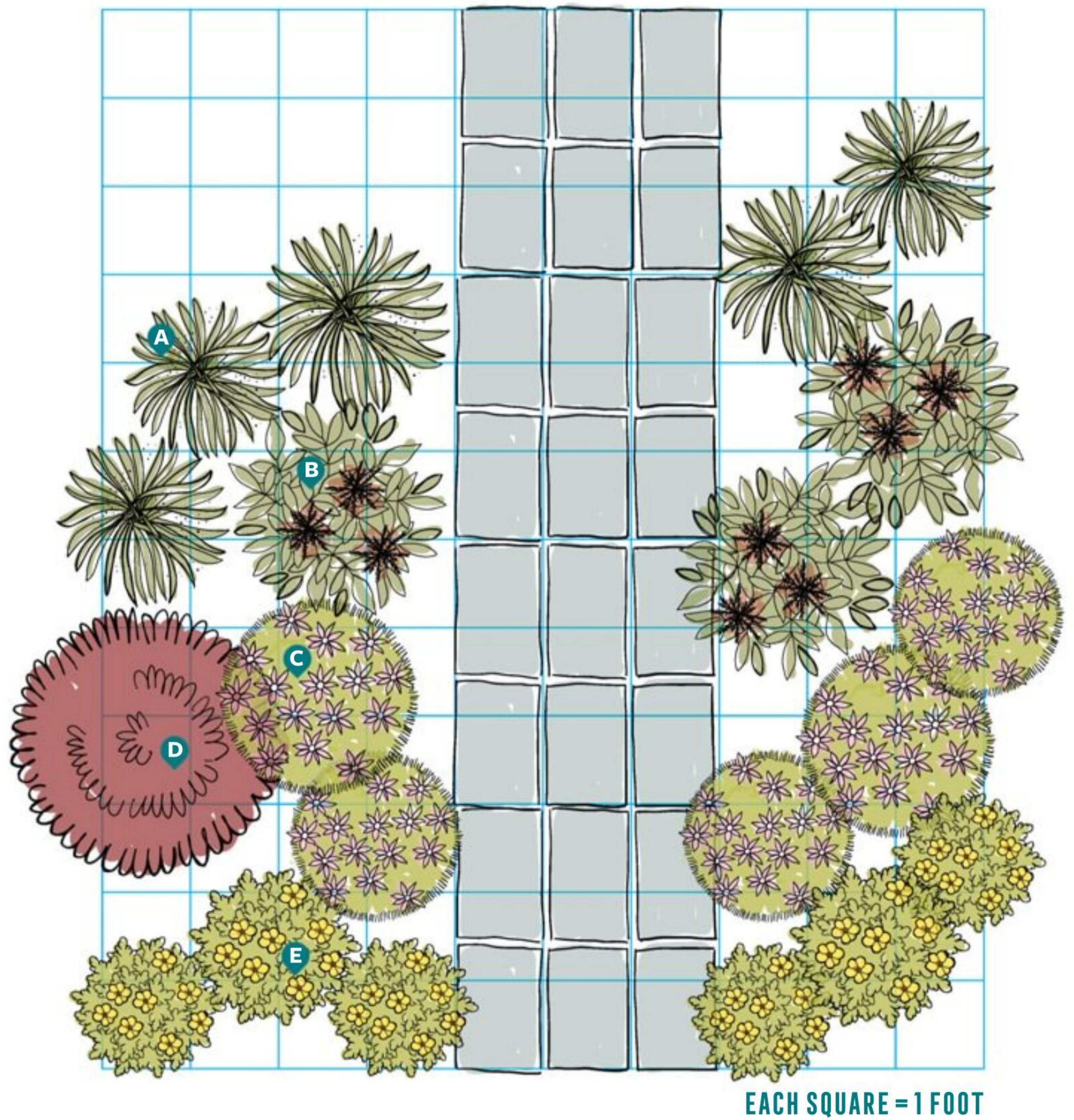
WALK THIS WAY

DRIFTS OF LONG-BLOOMING PERENNIALS LEAD THE WAY TO A FRONT DOOR. THESE TOUGH PLANTS REQUIRE MINIMAL SUPPLEMENTAL WATER.



tip

FIREWISE PLANTING IS ESSENTIAL IN DRY LANDSCAPES. SEDUMS, EUPHORBIAS, AND DAYLILIES ARE EASY-TO-GROW PERENNIALS RESISTANT TO WILDFIRES.



plant list

- A** 5 Sedge (*Carex* spp.) such as 'Fine China'; Zones 4–9
- B** 3 Silky oak (*Grevillea x hybrida*) such as 'Kings Celebration'; Zones 8–11
- C** 5 Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*) such as 'Siskiyou Pink'; Zones 5–8
- D** 1 Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) such as 'Forest Pansy'; Zones 4–8
- E** 6 Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa* subsp. *glauca*); Zones 3–8

SUCCULENT SENSATION



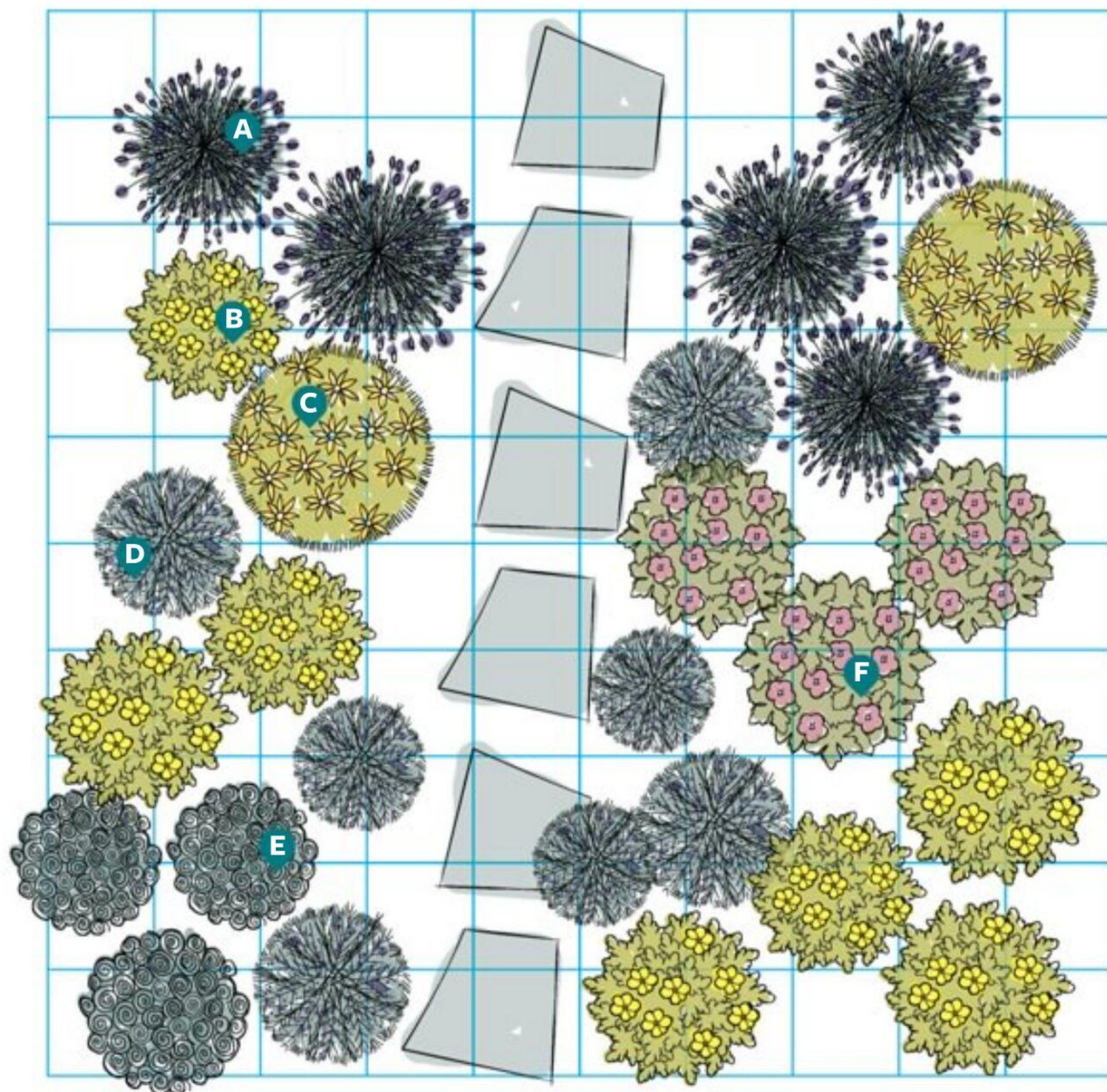
A VARIETY OF SUCCULENTS UNITE TO CREATE THIS LOW-WATER GARDEN THAT CHANGES IN COLOR AND TEXTURE WITH EVERY SEASON. FALL IN LOVE WITH THESE EASY-CARE PLANTS.

TEXTURAL DELIGHT

ALIVE WITH INTEREST 365 DAYS A YEAR, THIS LOW-WATER GARDEN IS LUSH WITH SLOW-GROWING SUCCULENTS, GRASSES, AND COLOR-RICH PERENNIALS. ALLOW THE PLANTS TO GROW TOGETHER, WEAVING A TAPESTRY OF TEXTURE IN A FEW YEARS.



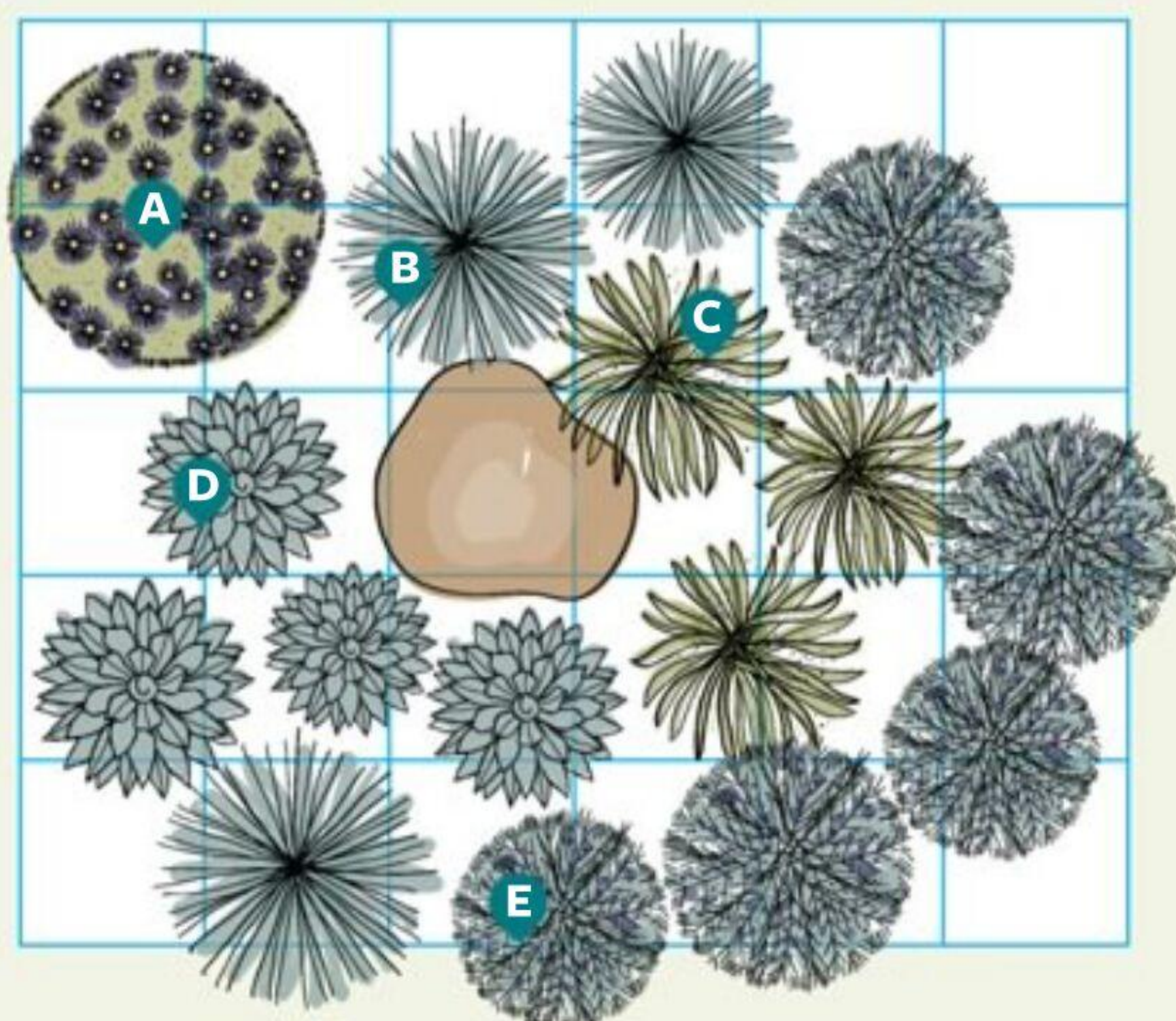
PHOTOS: (LEFT) DAVID TSAY, (ABOVE) PETER KRUMHARDT, (OPPOSITE) MATTHEW BENSON



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A 5 Catmint** (*Nepeta racemosa*) such as 'Walker's Low'; Zones 4–8
- B 7 Orange stonecrop** (*Phedimus kamtschaticus*); Zones 3–9
- C 2 Yarrow** (*Achillea* hybrid) such as 'Moonshine'; Zones 3–8
- D 7 Creeping thyme** (*Thymus serpyllum*) such as 'Pink Chintz'; Zones 5–8
- E 3 Blue stonecrop** (*Sedum reflexum*) such as 'Blue Spruce'; Zones 3–11
- F 3 'Nova Cherry Fizz' sedum** (*Sedum* x 'Cherry Fizz'); Zones 4–9



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A 1 Yarrow** (*Achillea* hybrid) such as 'Moonshine'; Zones 3–8
- B 2 Sedge** (*Carex* spp.) such as 'Fine China'; Zones 4–9
- C 3 Mexican feathergrass** (*Nassella tenuissima*); Zones 7–10
- D 4 Agave** (*Agave* spp.) such as 'Blue Glow'; Zones 8–11
- E 5 Silver carpet** (*Dymondia margaretae*); Zones 9–11

green gardening

GRAVEL GARDENS

Sustainable, simple to create, and brimming with color and texture, gravel gardens are a great option for dry regions.

WHAT IS A GRAVEL GARDEN?

Gravel replaces mulch and soil in this type of garden. Perennials and shrubs are planted in a 5-inch-deep layer of standard pea gravel or other small gravel. The plants quickly grow through the gravel to the soil beneath. Regular watering is essential until the plants establish a strong root system.

BEST PLANTS FOR A GRAVEL GARDEN

Drought-tolerant plants of all sorts will thrive. Choose plants native to your area for a long-lived investment.

DESIGN IDEAS

Plant selection and layout will determine the style of a gravel garden. A gravel garden does not have to be geometric and modern; with thoughtful plant selection it can take on the feel of an English border or meadow. Create a layout that complements your landscape.

tip

RAIN BARRELS CAPTURE AND HOLD RUNOFF FROM YOUR ROOF. USE THE STORED RAINWATER ON YOUR PLANTS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST. CHOOSE AN EYE-PLEASING BARREL FOR YOUR GARDEN.



DROUGHT-TOLERANT MEADOW

CIRCLE UP CHAIRS IN THE MIDDLE OF A BACKYARD MINI MEADOW AND ENJOY THE SONG OF SWAYING GRASSES ALL SUMMER.

plant list

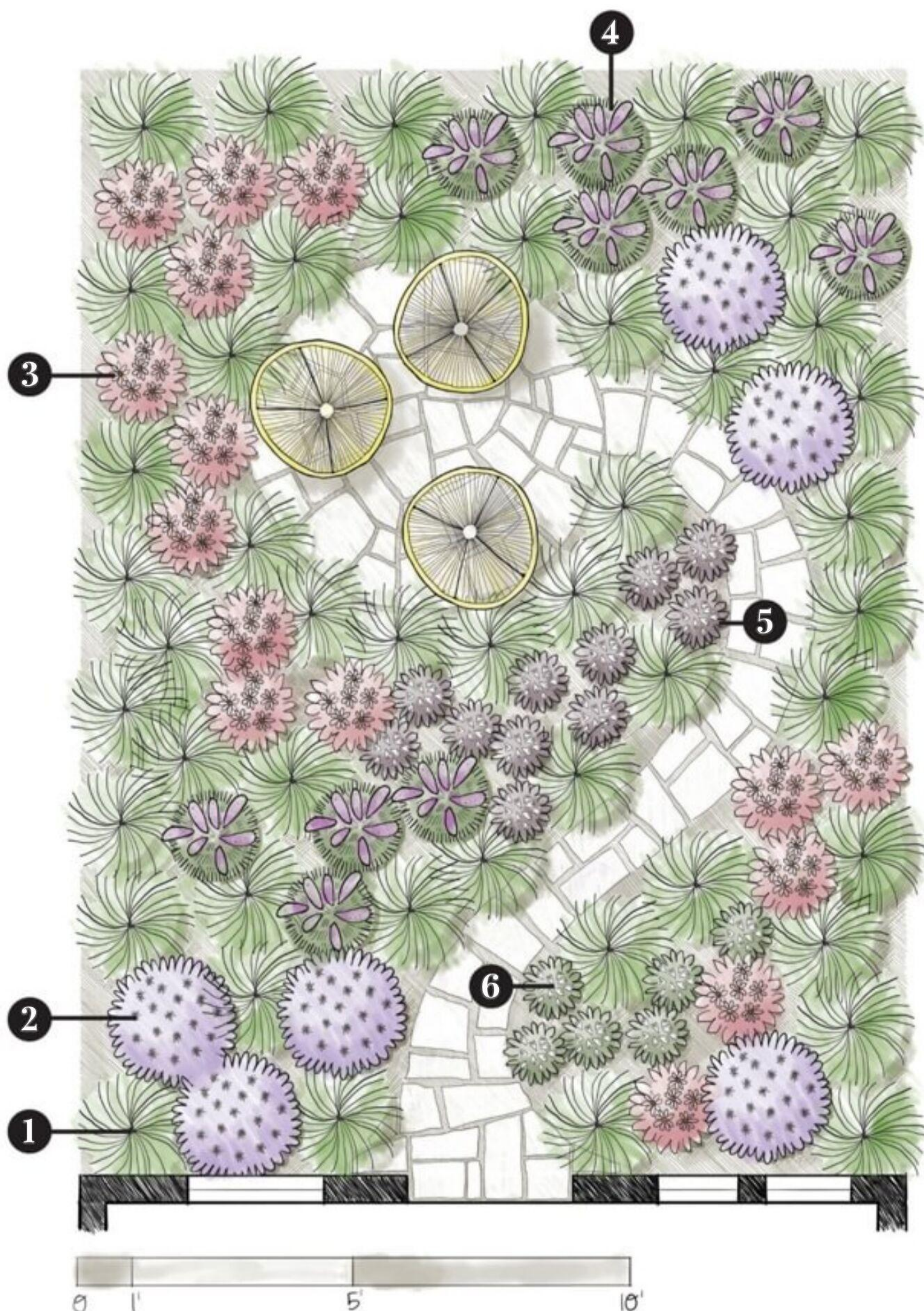
- 1** **Prairie dropseed** (*Sporobolus heterolepis*); Zones 3–9
- 2** **New England aster** (*Aster novi-belgii*) such as ‘Grape Crush’; Zones 3–8
- 3** **Pale purple coneflower** (*Echinacea pallida*) such as ‘Hula Dancer’; Zones 3–10
- 4** **Blazing star** (*Liatris spicata*) such as ‘Kobold’; Zones 3–8
- 5** **Beardtongue** (*Penstemon x hybrida*) such as ‘Husker Red’; Zones 3–8
- 6** **Foxglove beardtongue** (*Penstemon digitalis*); Zones 3–8

know&grow

MAKING A MEADOW

Thoughtfully manage a new meadow as it takes root.

- Weed vigilantly. Get to know the common weed species in your area and pluck them out when they are seedlings to prevent them from stealing space and nutrients from plants.
- At the beginning of the second growing season, mow plants to 2 inches tall. Leave the debris in place; it will nourish the soil.
- Keep an eye out for overly aggressive meadow plants. Don’t hesitate to remove them to make space for nearby desirable plants.
- As meadow plants reseed, transplant seedlings in spring to create rhythms of color throughout the planting.

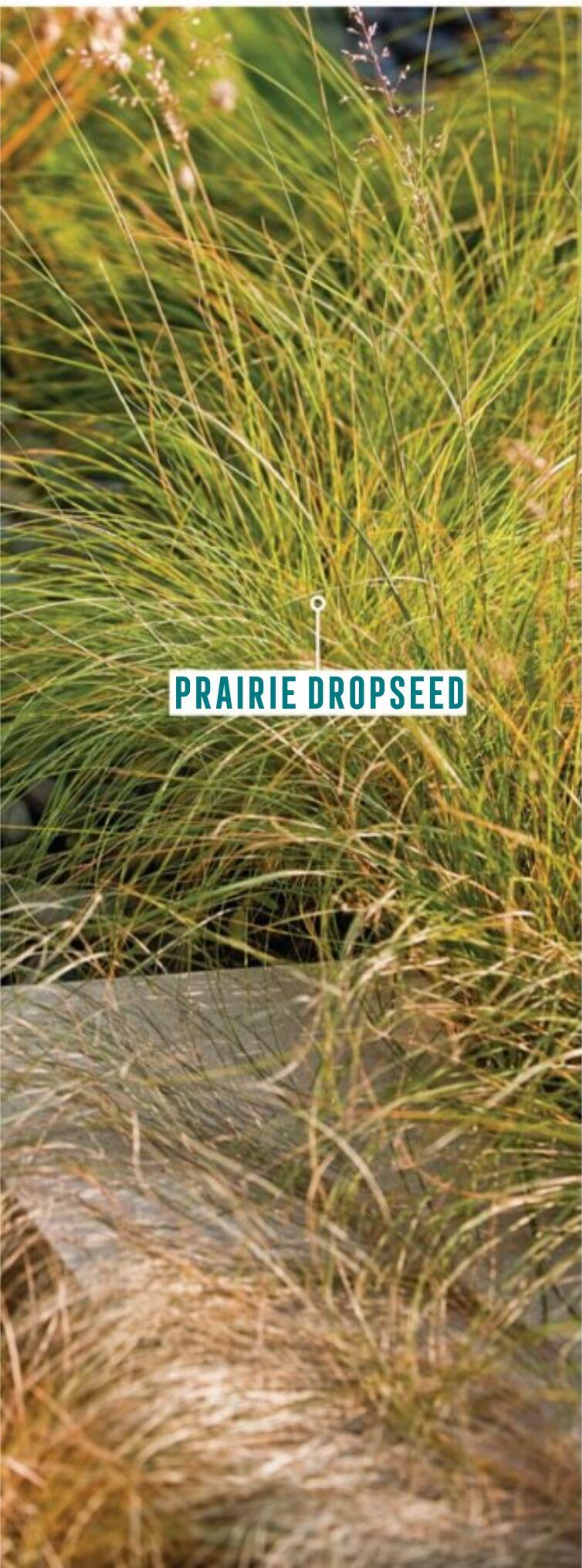


tip

FEEL FREE TO USE GRAVEL INSTEAD OF FLAGSTONES TO CREATE A PATH. SPREAD A 2-INCH-THICK LAYER OF GRAVEL OVER A 2-INCH-THICK LAYER OF COMPACTED CRUSHED STONE.



BEARDTONGUE



PRAIRIE DROPSEED



NEW ENGLAND
ASTER



BLAZING
STAR

LOW WATER

know&grow

SEEDS OR PLANTS?

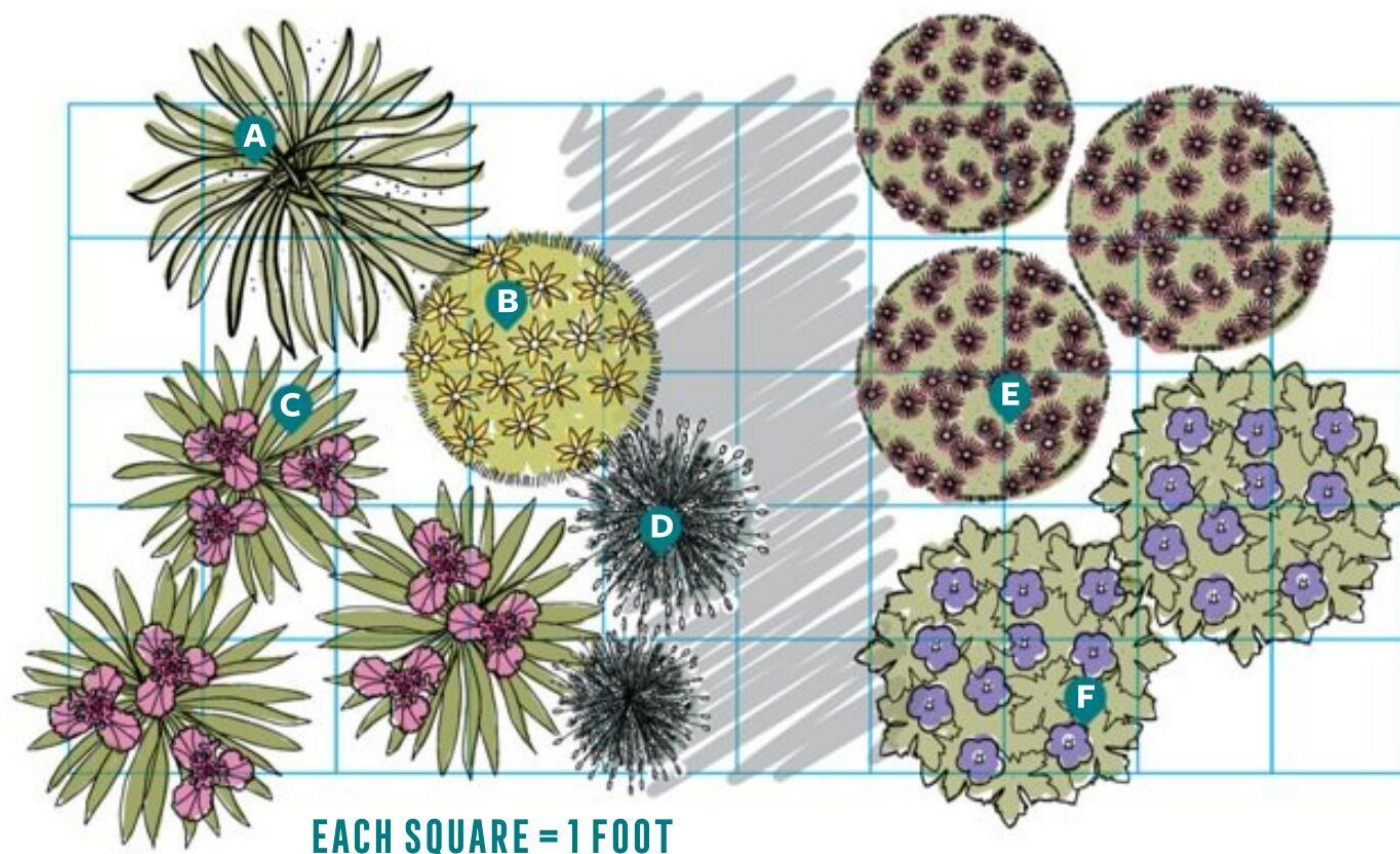
Purchase transplants at your local nursery to start a small meadow like the one illustrated here. While more costly than seed, transplants pay dividends in more uniform garden establishment. Save money by negotiating a bulk plant purchase discount with your local nursery, or talk with a local landscaper about placing a special order through their wholesale channels.

Use seed to start a meadow greater than 500 square feet or so. Work with a local expert to find or develop a perennial seed mix that includes many species native to your area. Avoid using canisters of seeds labeled “wildflower mix.” These are usually nonnative, annual plant seeds.

DREAM WEAVER

FULL OF NORTH AMERICAN NATIVES, THIS DROUGHT-TOLERANT GARDEN BED BRIMS WITH POLLEN-RICH PERENNIALS.





EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 1 Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) such as 'Shenandoah'; Zones 5–9
- B** 1 Yarrow (*Achillea* hybrid) such as 'Oertel's Rose'; Zones 3–8
- C** 3 Beardtongue (*Penstemon* hybrid) such as 'Red Rocks'; Zones 4–8
- D** 2 Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*) such as 'Bloodstone'; Zones 4–8
- E** 3 Red-flowered buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*); Zones 9–11
- F** 2 California blue sage (*Salvia clevelandii*); Zones 9–11

green gardening

WATER WELL

Make the most of every drop with these tips.

- **Water deeply.** Aim to soak the soil around a plant to at least 8 inches deep. It is better to water perennials and shrubs deeply and infrequently (every 2 weeks or so) than to water frequently.
- **Add mulch.** A 2-inch-thick blanket of mulch around a plant's root zone prevents soil moisture evaporation. Use shredded bark, leaves, or pine needles. Choose a fire-safe mulch, such as gravel, in areas where fire risk is high.
- **Watch for signs a plant is too dry.** When the leaves or stems of drought-tolerant plants change color or texture during a long dry period, it is a sign the plants need water.
- **Give new plants special care.** New plants have high water needs until they develop a strong root system. Plan to water a newly planted garden every 5 to 7 days for the first 2 months or so.

tip

WEEDS STEAL VALUABLE WATER FROM NEARBY PLANTS. KEEP AHEAD OF GARDEN INVADERS BY INVESTING A FEW MINUTES A WEEK IN WEED CONTROL. SIMPLY WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN PULLING YOUNG WEEDS BY HAND.



LOW WATER TOP 10

BISHOP'S HAT

(*Epimedium grandiflorum*) such as 'Rose Queen'; Zones 5–8. Grows well in shade.

BLUE OAT GRASS

(*Helictotrichon sempervirens*); Zones 4–8. Clump-forming grass. Deer-resistant.

BLUE STONECROP

(*Sedum reflexum*) such as 'Blue Spruce'; Zones 3–9. Easy-to-grow, spreading groundcover plant.

'NOVA CHERRY FIZZ' SEDUM

(*Sedum* x 'Cherry Fizz'); Zones 4–9. Burgundy foliage all year.

GLOBE AMARANTH

(*Gomphrena globosa*) such as 'Strawberry Fields'; Annual. Summer flowers maintain their shape and color until frost.

LAVENDER

(*Lavandula angustifolia*) such as 'Munstead'; Zones 5–8. Well-drained soil is essential for longevity of this fragrant perennial.

NINEBARK

(*Physocarpus opulifolius*) such as 'Diabolo'; Zones 3–7. Flowers in early summer attract pollinators.

SEA HOLLY

(*Eryngium planum*) such as 'Blue Glitter'; Zones 5–8. Blooms in summer. Excellent cutting flower.

SPIREA

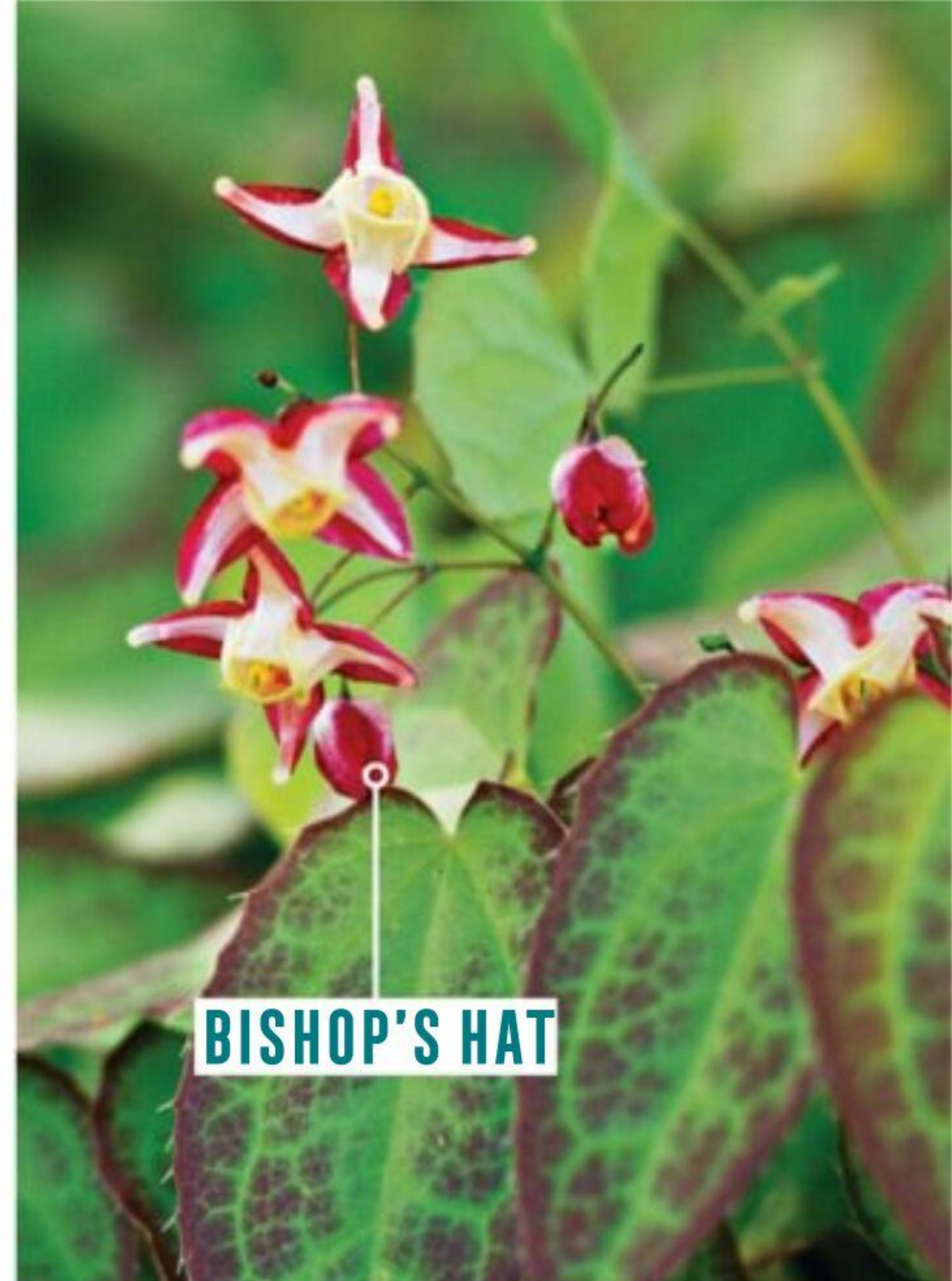
(*Spirea* spp.) such as 'Gold Mound'; Zones 4–8. Low-growing shrubs with spring flowers and colorful fall foliage.

YARROW

(*Achillea* hybrid) such as 'Moonshine'; Zones 3–8. Foliage has pleasing fernlike texture.



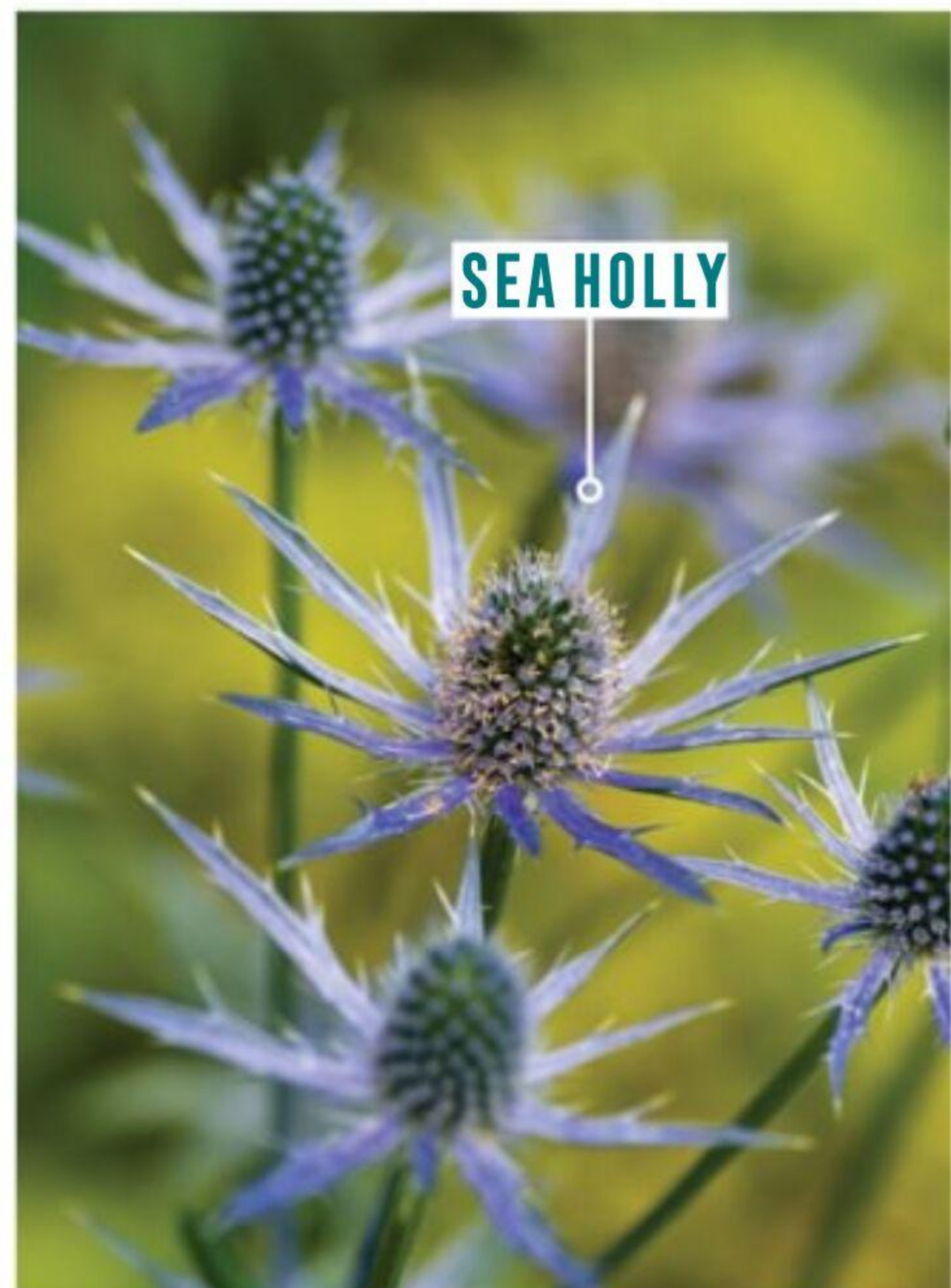
SPIREA



BISHOP'S HAT



'NOVA CHERRY FIZZ'
SEDUM



SEA HOLLY



BLUE STONECROP



LAVENDER

PHOTOS: MATTHEW BENSON, LAURIE BLACK, ROB CARDILLO, KIMBERLY CORNELIUSON, PETER KRUMHARDT

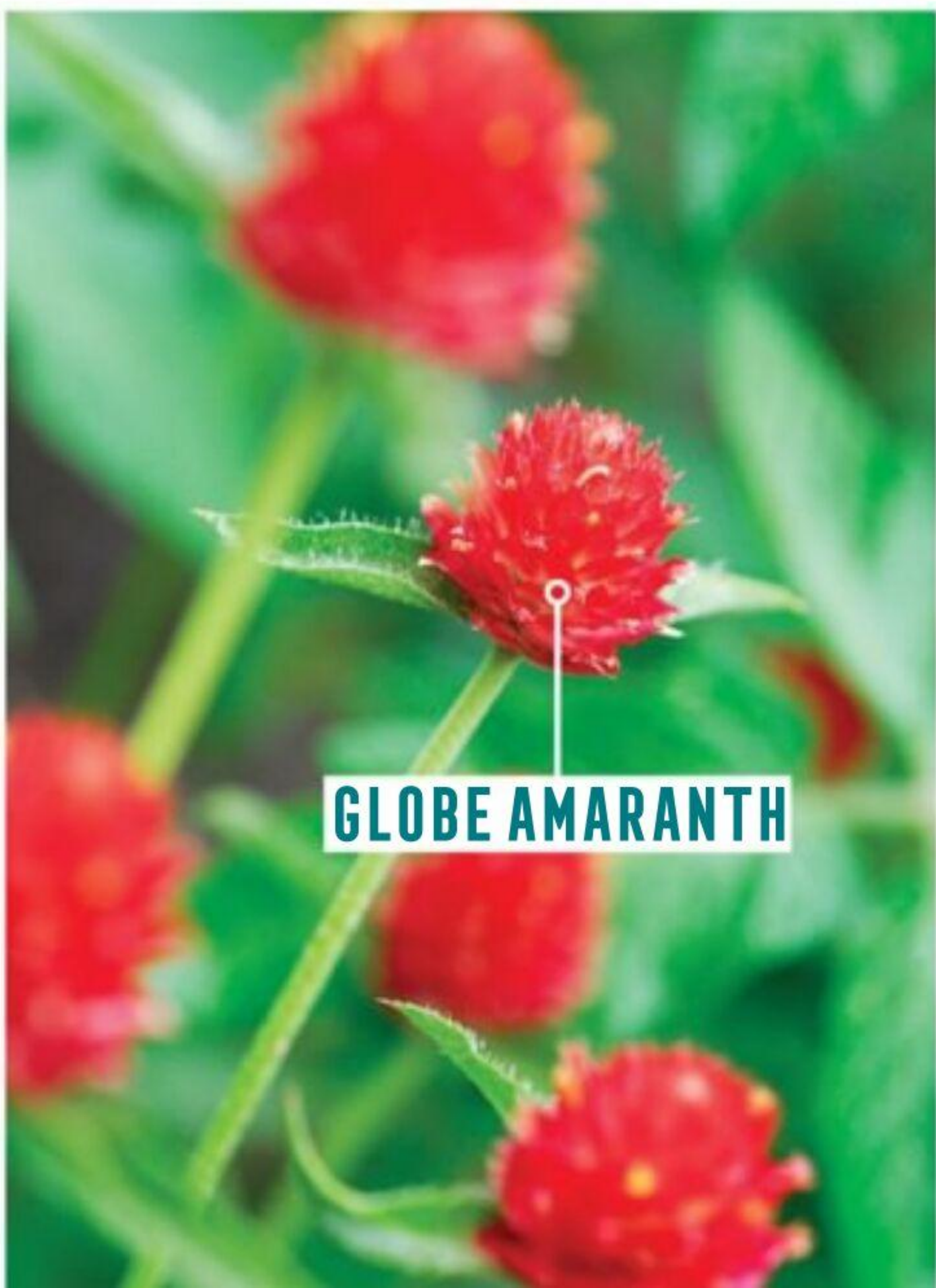


LOW WATER

NINEBARK



BLUE OAT GRASS



GLOBE AMARANTH



YARROW

made in THE SHADE

HAVING LOW LIGHT CAN ACTUALLY BE A GARDENER'S GAIN—AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A COOL GARDEN RETREAT.

A leafy canopy over a potential planting spot often brings disappointment—visions of colorful flowers, hopes of fresh-cut bouquets, or imagined armloads of fragrant blossoms are dashed by sun blockers in the form of trees or nearby buildings. Yes, flower power is greatly reduced in shady situations, but it's time to change your preconceptions. For what is lacking in the petal department is redeemed twofold in leaf patterns and plant textures in the shade garden.

Armed with a keen eye for texture and a good planting plan, you can grow a shade garden that rivals any full sun garden when it comes to interest and engagement. Call on annuals, perennials, and shrubs to lighten up a dark spot in your landscape.

Revel in the juxtaposition of massive, smooth hosta leaves mingling with feathery astilbe stems. Partner ginger's heart-shape, glossy leaves with variegated deadnettle's low-maintenance sea of foliage. And bonus—you can enjoy it all from the cool respite of overhead shade.

RIGHT: This garden border showcases dozens of shades of green; the hostas alone display a multitude of verdant hues. Their diversity is further highlighted when paired with a ribbon of chartreuse Japanese forest grass.



PHOTO: CARSON DOWNING

SHADE



INTO THE WOODS

MIMIC THE QUIET MAGIC OF A FOREST AS YOU USE THIS PLAN TO GROW A WOODLAND GARDEN UNDER ESTABLISHED TREES.



PHOTOS: (LEFT) FROM GARDEN DESIGN MASTER CLASS, EDITED BY CARL DELLATORE/RIZZOLI, (OPPOSITE TOP) BOB STEFKO, (OPPOSITE MIDDLE) ROB CARDILLO, (OPPOSITE BOTTOM) BLAINE MOATS

plant facts

SPRING GREETINGS

These plants flower together for an especially colorful spring awakening in dappled shade.



LITTLE BULBS

Plant dainty grape hyacinths, glory of the snow, scilla, and other small spring-flowering bulbs along a pathway.



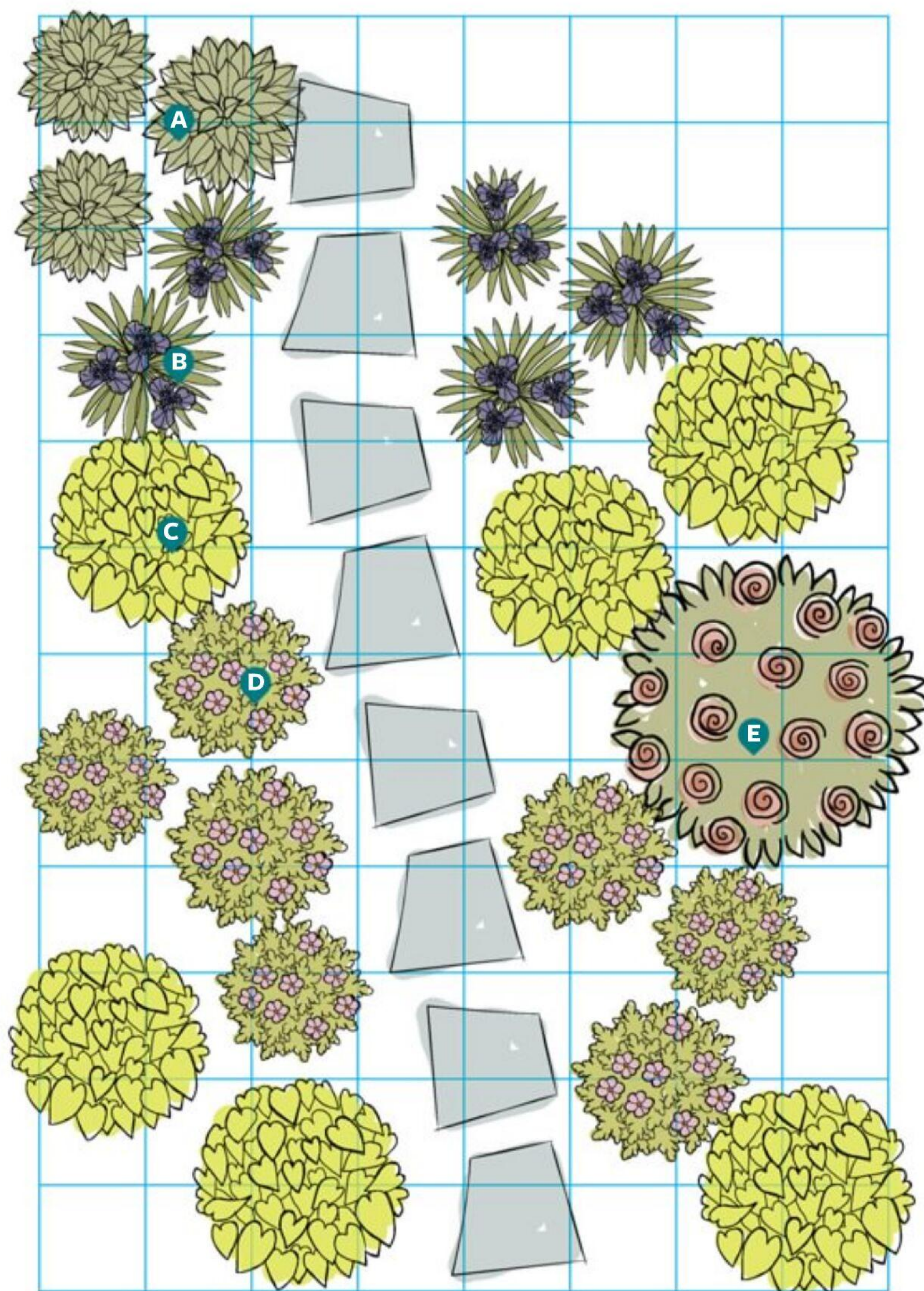
EARLY WILDFLOWERS

Trillium, bloodroot, and Jack-in-the-pulpit bring a woodland to life in the beginning of spring.



PERENNIAL HITS

Columbine and golden Alexander attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 3 Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*); Zones 4–9
- B** 5 Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*); Zones 3–8
- C** 6 Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*); Zones 3–7
- D** 7 Woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) such as ‘Chattahoochee’; Zones 3–8
- E** 1 Azalea (*Rhododendron* spp.) such as ‘Rosy Lights’; Zones 5–8

tip

FULL SHADE IS CONSIDERED LESS THAN 4 HOURS OF SUN A DAY; PARTIAL SHADE IS 4 TO 6 HOURS DAILY. OBSERVE YOUR SPACE AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY.



MORNING LIGHT

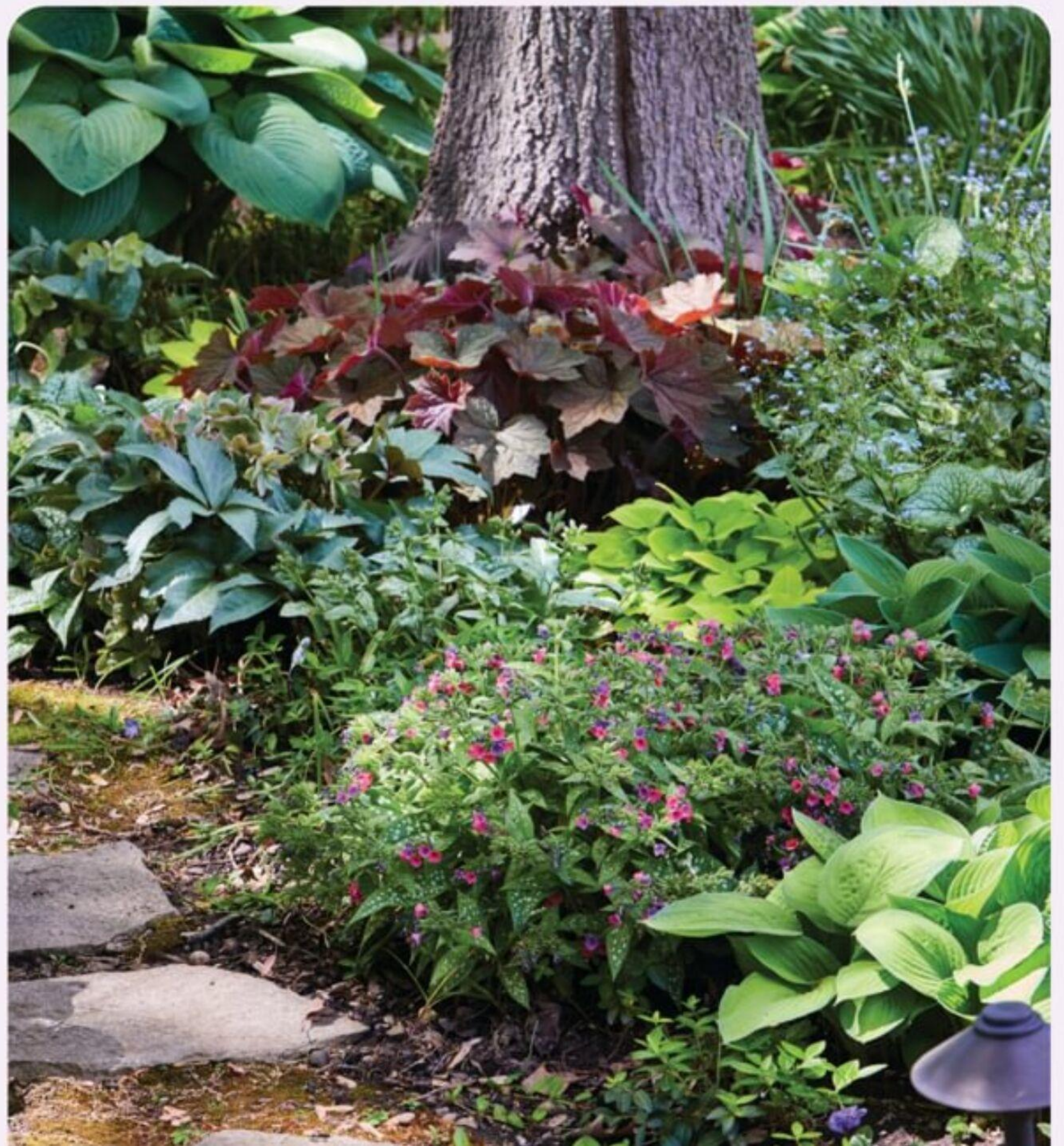
JUST RIGHT FOR THE EAST OR NORTH SIDE OF A HOME, THIS PARTIAL SHADE GARDEN IS ANCHORED BY LONG-BLOOMING HYDRANGEAS.

tip

SHRUBS WITH MULTISEASON INTEREST ARE EXCELLENT FOCAL POINTS IN SHADE GARDENS. SOME GOOD CHOICES FOR SHADE INCLUDE SUMMERSWEET, OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA, AND SERVICEBERRY.

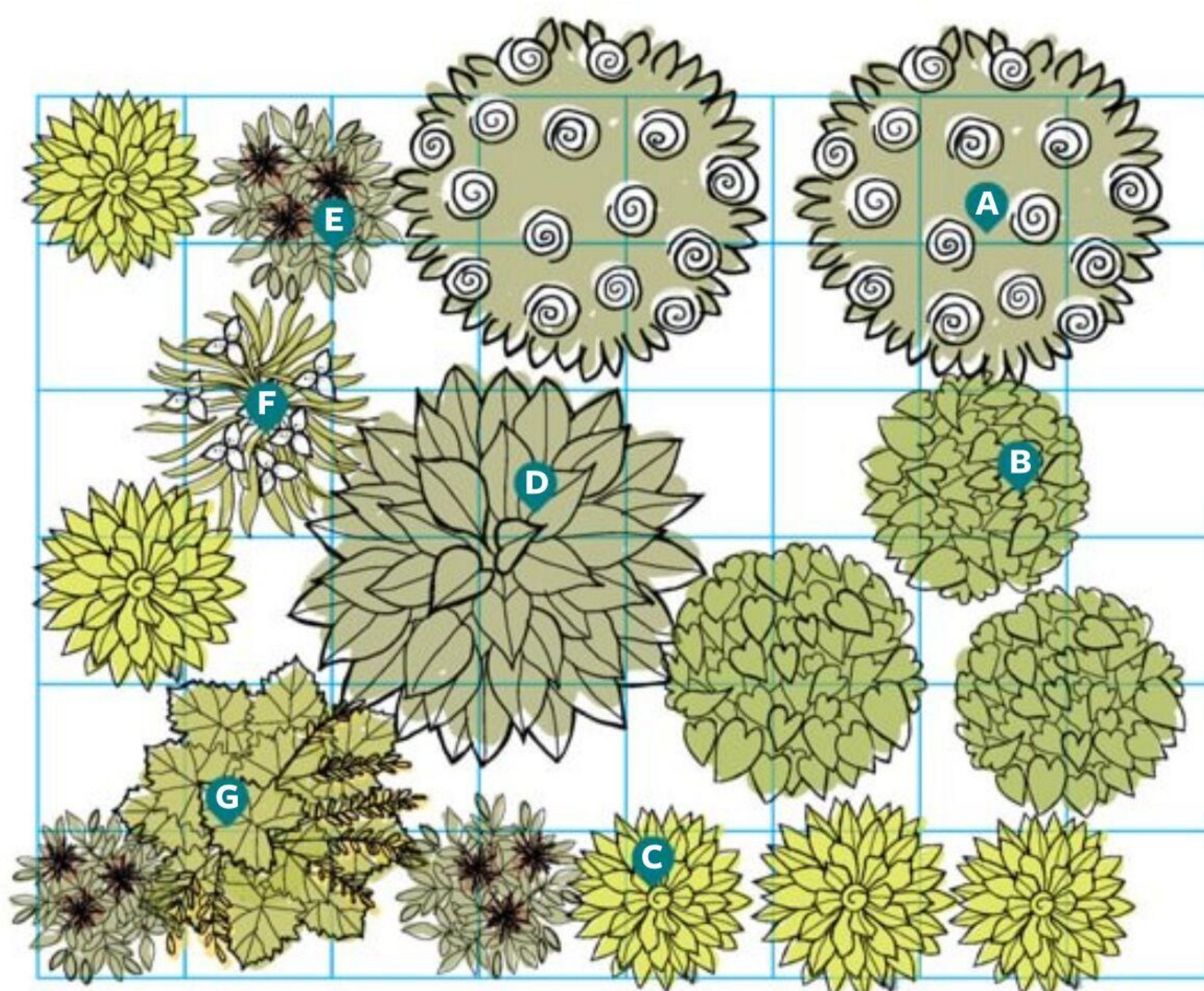
PLANT A LIVING TREE SKIRT

BLANKET THE EARTH AROUND A TREE TRUNK WITH A COLORFUL TAPESTRY OF LOW-MAINTENANCE PERENNIALS.

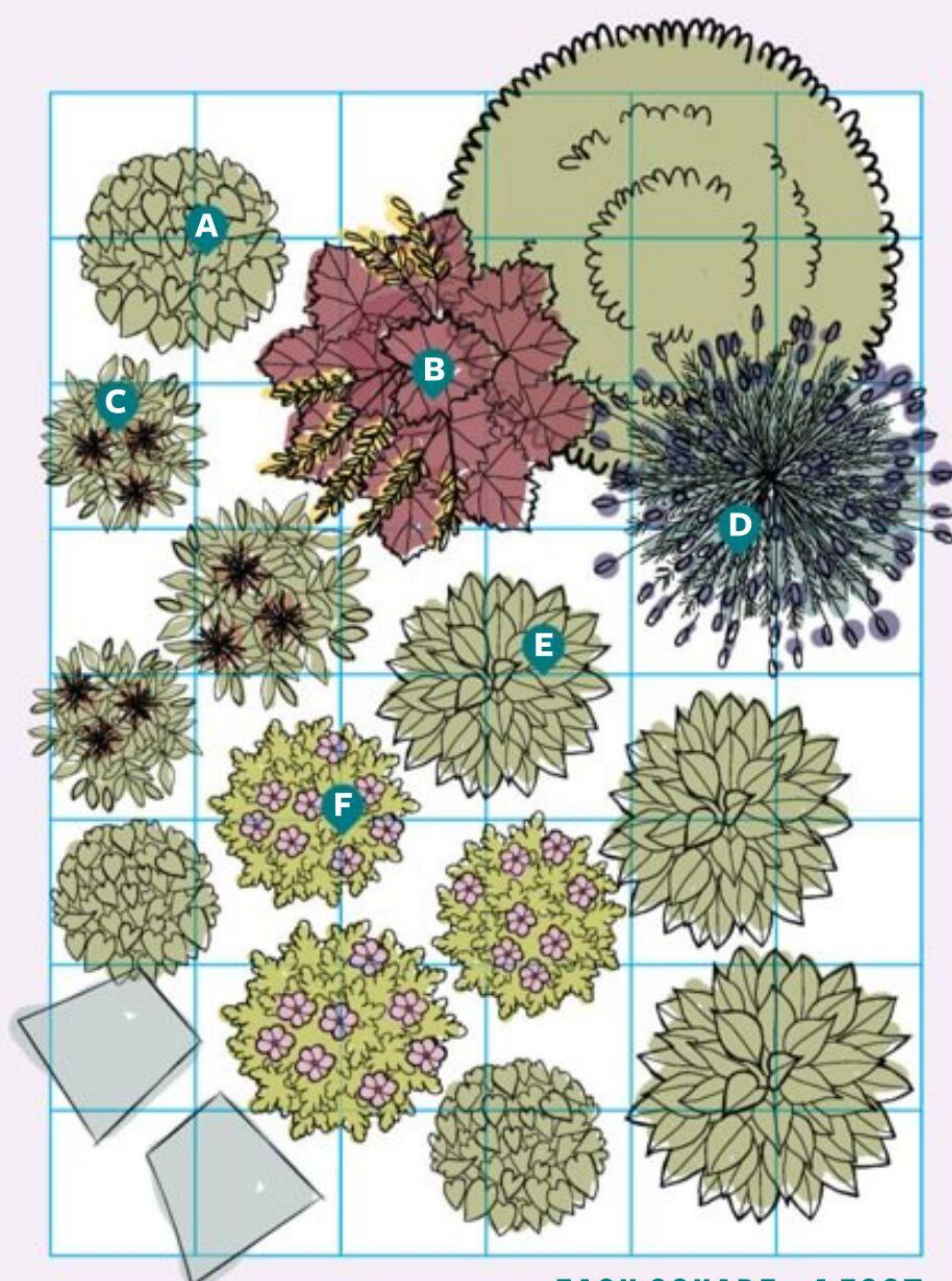


plant list

- A** 2 Smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) such as 'Limetta'; Zones 3–9
- B** 3 Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*); Zones 3–7
- C** 5 Coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*) such as 'ColorBlaze Lime Time'; Annual
- D** 1 Japanese anemone (*Anemone* spp.) such as 'Honorine Jobert'; Zones 4–8
- E** 3 Sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*); Zones 4–8
- F** 1 Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum*) such as 'Variegatum'; Zones 3–8
- G** 1 Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) such as 'Thriller'; Zones 3–7



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

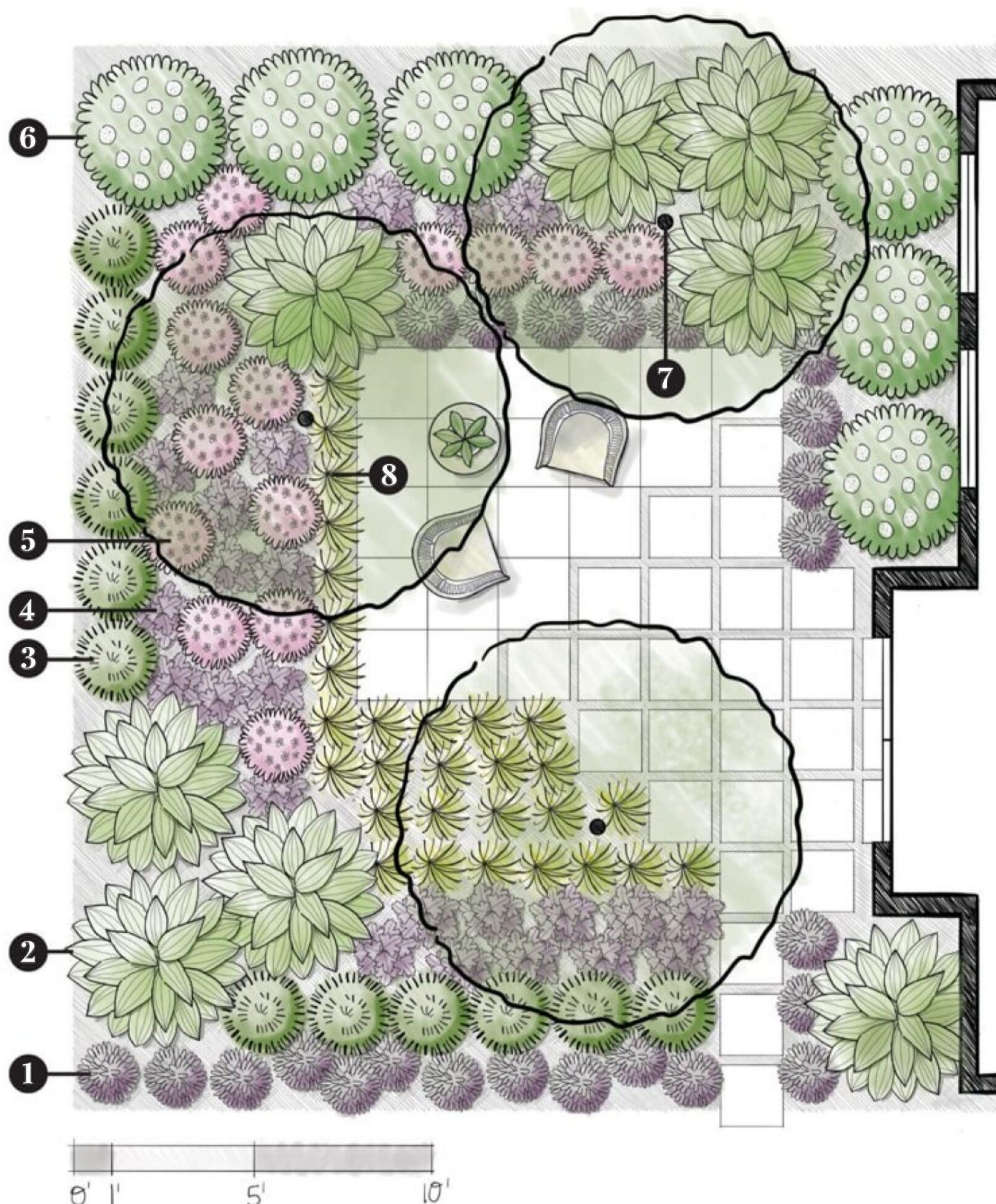
- A** 3 Sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*); Zones 4–8
- B** 1 Coralbells (*Heuchera* hybrid) such as 'Georgia Peach'; Zones 4–9
- C** 3 Hellebore (*Helleborus* spp.) such as 'Cascade Blush'; Zones 4–9
- D** 1 Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla*) such as 'Jack Frost'; Zones 3–8
- E** 3 Hosta (*Hosta* spp.) such as 'Dancing Queen'; Zones 3–8
- F** 3 Bethlehem sage (*Pulmonaria saccharata*) such as 'Mrs. Moon'; Zones 3–8

tip

CHOKER OUT WEEDS WITH A GROUND COVER INSTEAD OF MULCH IN YOUR SHADE GARDEN. SPOTTED DEADNETTLE, SWEET WOODRUFF, AND AJUGA ALL FLOURISH IN SHADE.

PLANT YOUR PATIO

REDBUD TREES ANCHOR THIS 20-FOOT BY 30-FOOT SEATING AREA. A LUSH MIX OF EASY-CARE PERENNIALS PROVIDES POPS OF COLOR SPRING THROUGH FALL.



plant list

- 1 Bugleweed** (*Ajuga reptans*) such as 'Chocolate Chip'; Zones 3–10
- 2 Hosta** (*Hosta* spp.) such as 'T Rex'; Zones 3–8
- 3 Dwarf mugo pine** (*Pinus mugo*) such as 'Sherwood Compact'; Zones 2–7
- 4 Coralbells** (*Heuchera* hybrid) such as 'Forever Purple'; Zones 4–9
- 5 Japanese anemone** (*Anemone* spp.) such as 'Robustissima'; Zones 5–9
- 6 Smooth hydrangea** (*Hydrangea arborescens*) such as 'Haas Halo'; Zones 3–9
- 7 Eastern redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*) such as 'Forest Pansy'; Zones 4–8
- 8 Japanese forest grass** (*Hakonechloa macra*) such as 'All Gold'; Zones 5–9

SHADE

HOSTA



EASTERN REDBUD



know&grow

ADD A SMALL TREE

Many beds and borders have space for a small tree. The right tree will add year-round structure to a garden and benefit wildlife.

CHOOSE A NATIVE SPECIES

Connect with your local garden center or public garden to learn about small trees native to your region. Look for a species that offers multiple seasons of interest—spring flowers and colorful fall foliage, for example.

MANY WAYS TO START

Look for bareroot, container-grown, or balled-and-burlapped young trees. Each growing method has benefits.

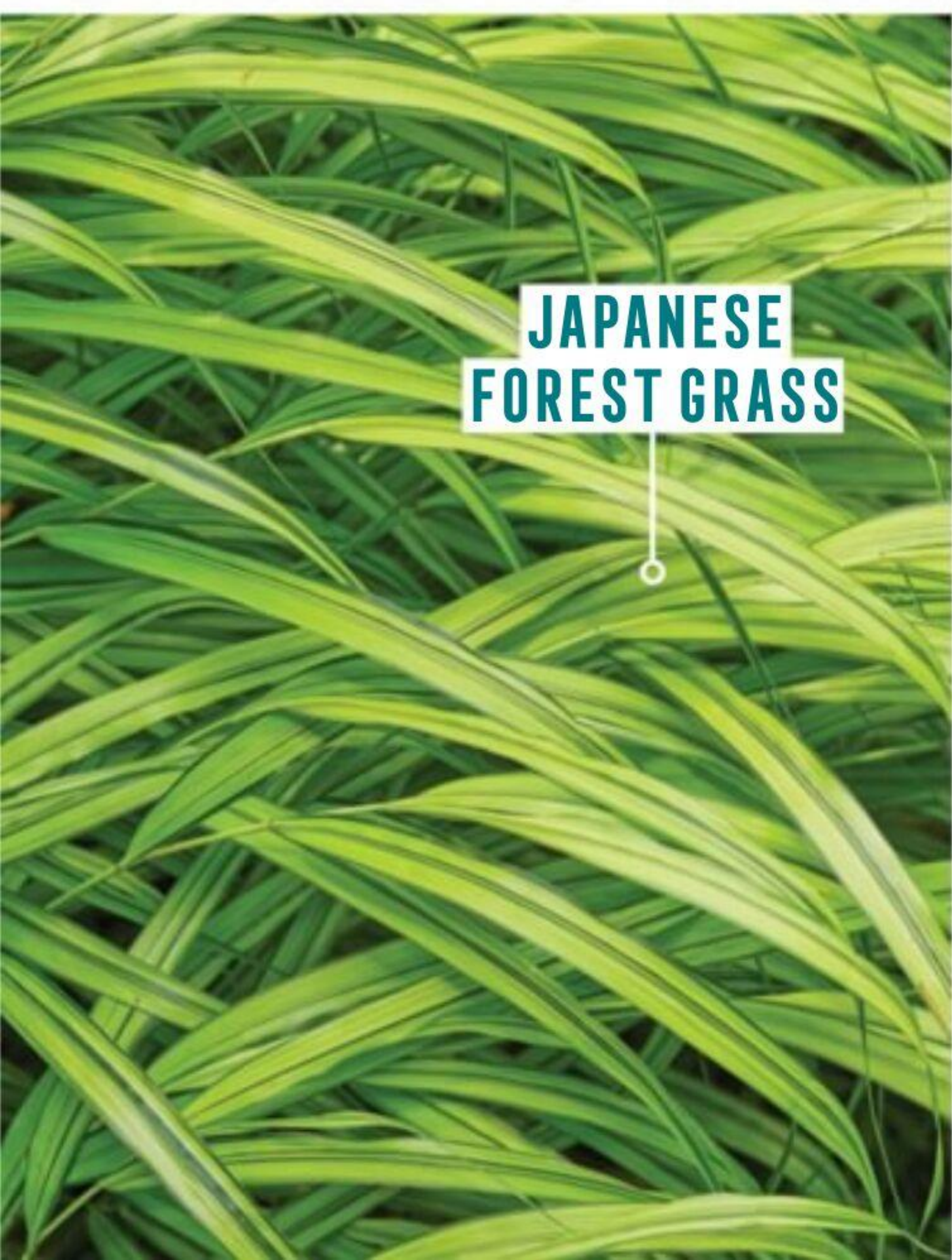
PLANT IN SPRING OR FALL

The moderate temperatures and regular rainfall at the beginning and end of the growing season are just what a new tree needs to establish a deep root system.

JAPANESE ANEMONE



JAPANESE FOREST GRASS



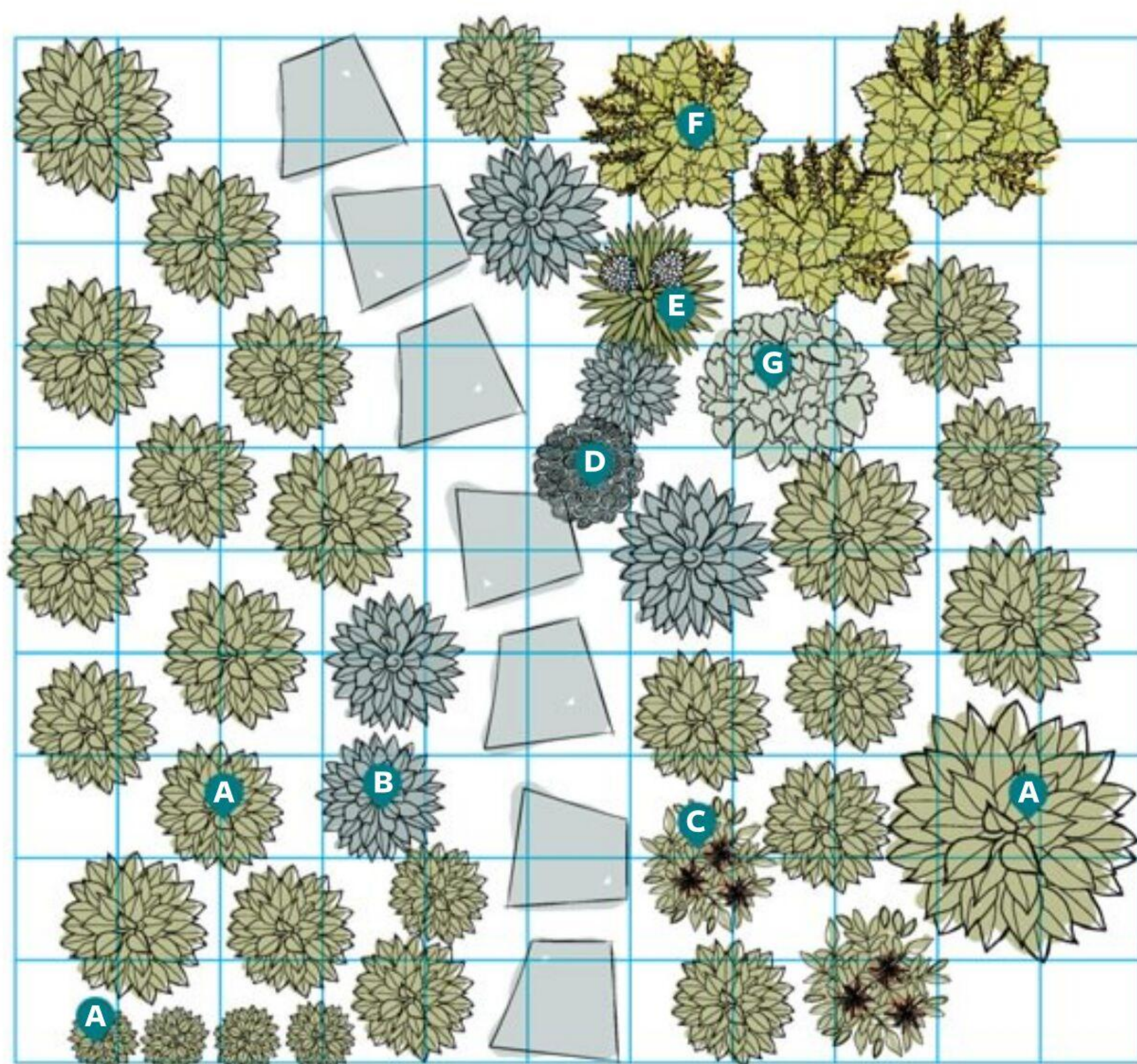
HYDRANGEA



EMERALD CARPET

PLAY UP TEXTURE BY TEAMING HOSTAS WITH A HOST OF EASY-TO-GROW PERENNIALS THAT REVEL IN LOW LIGHT.





EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 28 **Hosta** (*Hosta* spp.) various sizes and colors; Zones 3–8
- B** 5 **Bethlehem sage** (*Pulmonaria saccharata*) such as 'Mrs. Moon'; Zones 3–8
- C** 2 **Astilbe** (*Astilbe* spp.) such as 'Rheinland'; Zones 3–8
- D** 1 **Periwinkle** (*Vinca minor*) such as 'Bowles'; Zones 4–8
- E** 1 **Hellebore** (*Helleborus* spp.) such as 'Cascade Blush'; Zones 4–9
- F** 3 **Coralbells** (*Heuchera* hybrid) such as 'Georgia Peach'; Zones 4–9
- G** 1 **Siberian bugloss** (*Brunnera macrophylla*) such as 'Jack Frost'; Zones 3–8

plant facts

HOSTAS FOR THE WIN

These champions of shade gardens grow in all sizes. Here are some BHG Test Garden favorites.

- 1 'Guacamole'** Spreads to form large clumps up to 4 feet wide.
- 2 'Olive Bailey Langdon'** Has puckered leaves with a wide, irregular green margin.
- 3 'Wheee!'** Has ruffled leaves with a creamy edge and is especially resistant to slugs.
- 4 'Tiny Tears'** A miniature hosta that grows only about 2 inches tall and 6 inches wide.
- 5 'Diamond Lake'** Silvery blue leaves grow to 9 inches wide and almost 12 inches long.
- 6 'Rainbow's End'** Glossy yellow foliage with a distinctive green brushstroke variegation.
- 7 'Blue Mouse Ears'** Just 8 inches tall with leaves that are almost perfectly round.
- 8 'Empress Wu'** Has the largest leaves of any hosta, up to 18 inches wide.
- 9 'Liberty'** Blue-green leaves have wide, boldly streaked yellow margins.
- 10 'Curly Fries'** Forms an arching clump of rippled, narrow leaves.



SHADE TOP 10

ASTILBE

(*Astilbe* spp.); Zones 3–8. Flowers in shades of red or white open in midsummer.

BLEEDING HEART

(*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*); Zones 3–9. Eye-catching flowers appear in late spring. Foliage dies back to ground in midsummer.

COLEUS

(*Plectranthus scutellarioides*); Annual. Varieties with red, burgundy, and lime green foliage.

CORALBELLS

(*Heuchera* hybrid) such as ‘Forever Purple’; Zones 4–9. Choose from hundreds of colorful varieties. Plants tolerate dry soil well.

HYDRANGEA

(*Hydrangea* spp.); Zones 3–8. Water plants regularly for a big flower display.

JAPANESE FOREST GRASS

(*Hakonechloa macra*); Zones 5–9. Clump-forming grass.

NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS

(*Impatiens hawkeri*); Annual. Plants grow 1 to 3 feet tall and wide. Many flower colors available.

NORTHERN MAIDENHAIR FERN

(*Adiantum pedatum*); Zones 3–8. Thrives in moist, rich soil. Will spread slowly to form large colony.

SIBERIAN BUGLOSS

(*Brunnera macrophylla*) such as ‘Jack Frost’; Zones 3–8. Heart-shape leaves and blue-purple flowers are the hallmarks of this low-maintenance plant.

SOLOMON'S SEAL

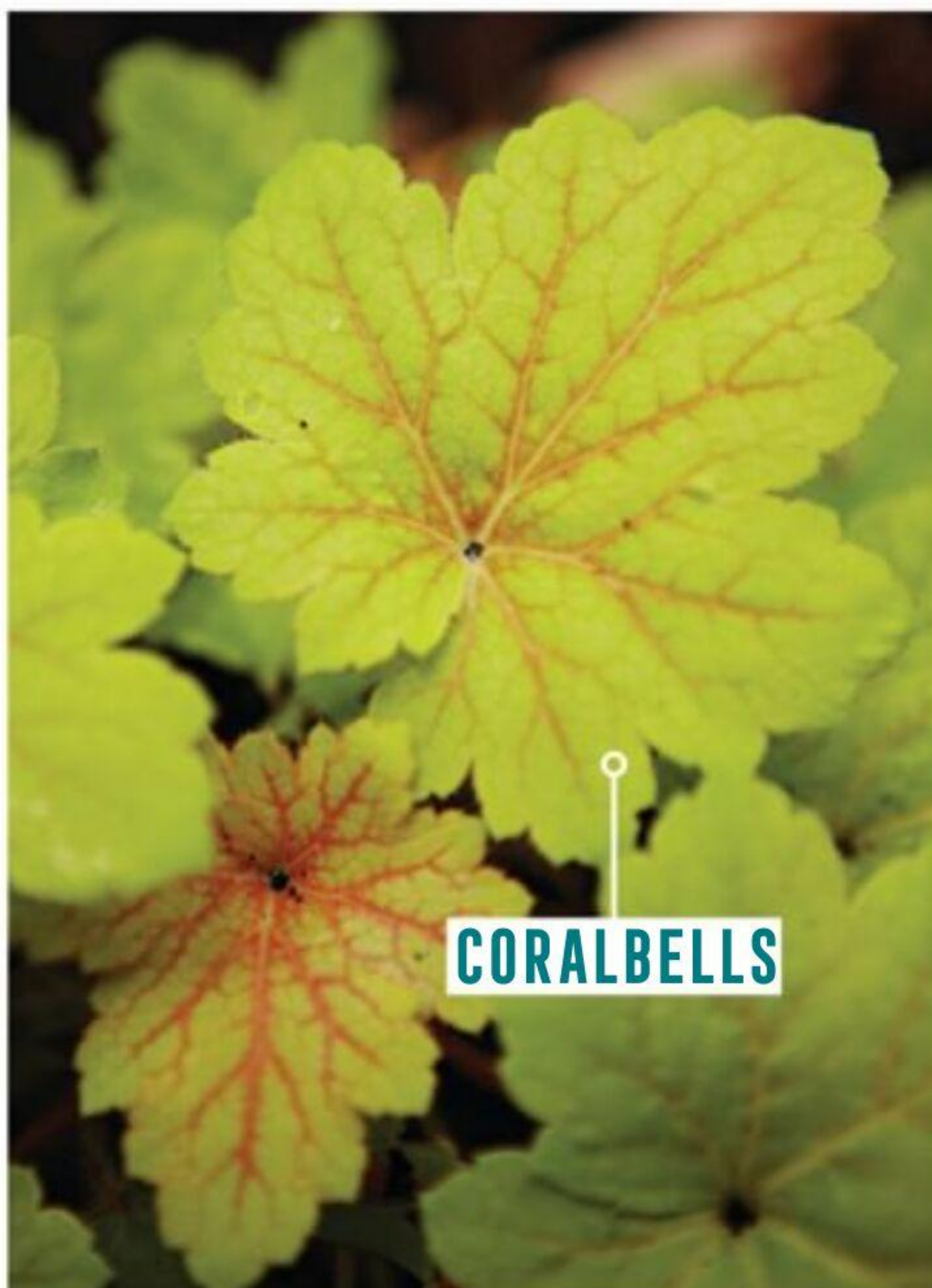
(*Polygonatum odoratum*) such as ‘Variegatum’; Zones 3–8. Fragrant bell-shape flowers emerge in early summer. Plants spread slowly.



SOLOMON'S
SEAL



NEW GUINEA
IMPATIENS



CORALBELLS



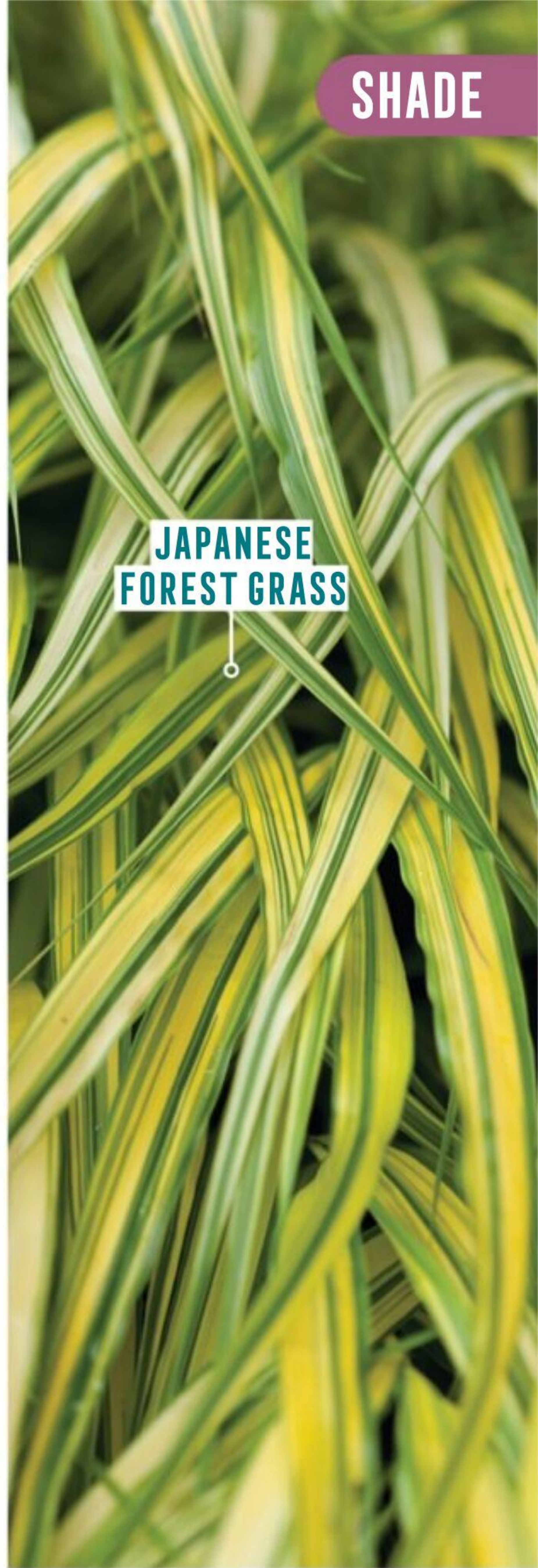
SIBERIAN
BUGLOSS



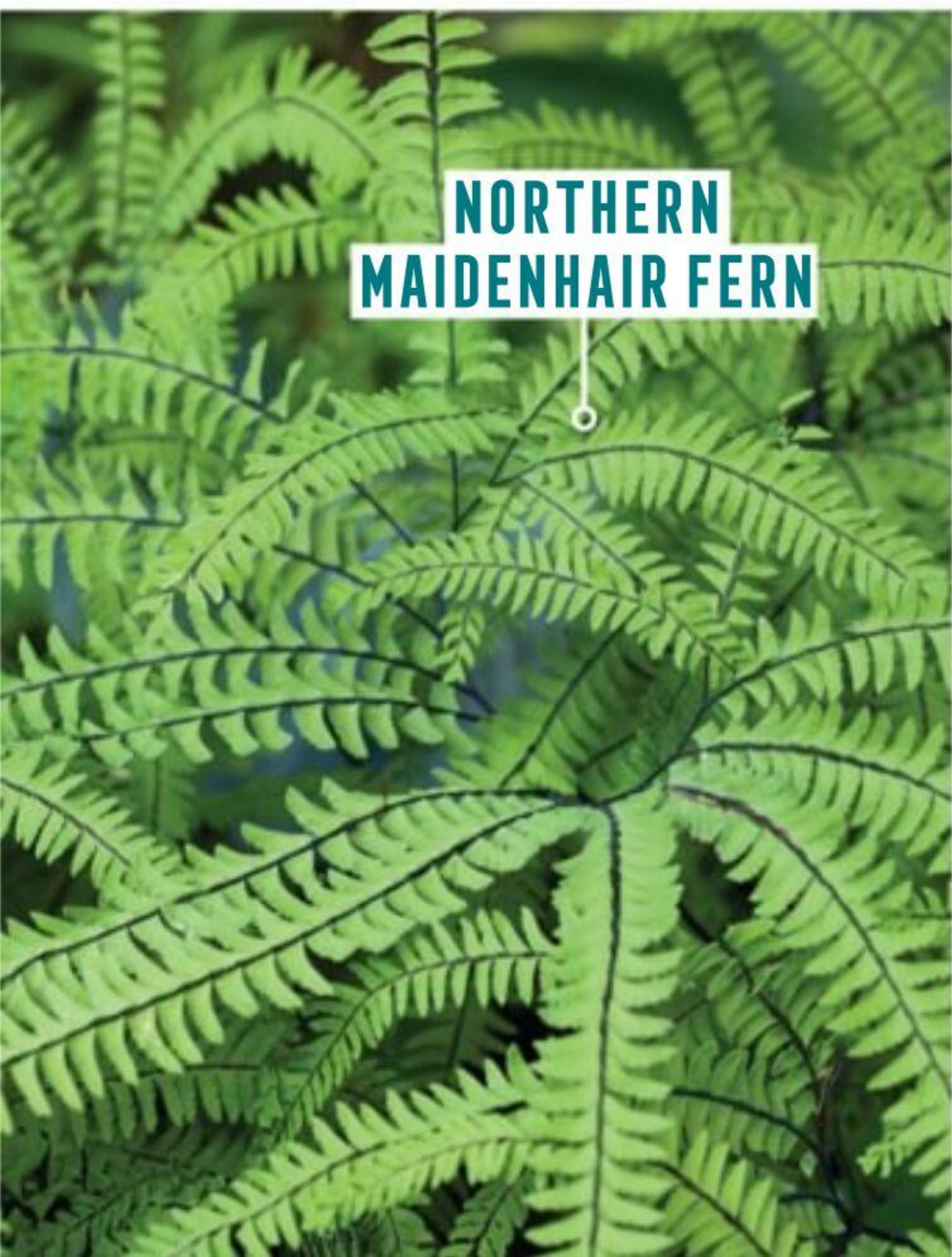
BLEEDING HEART



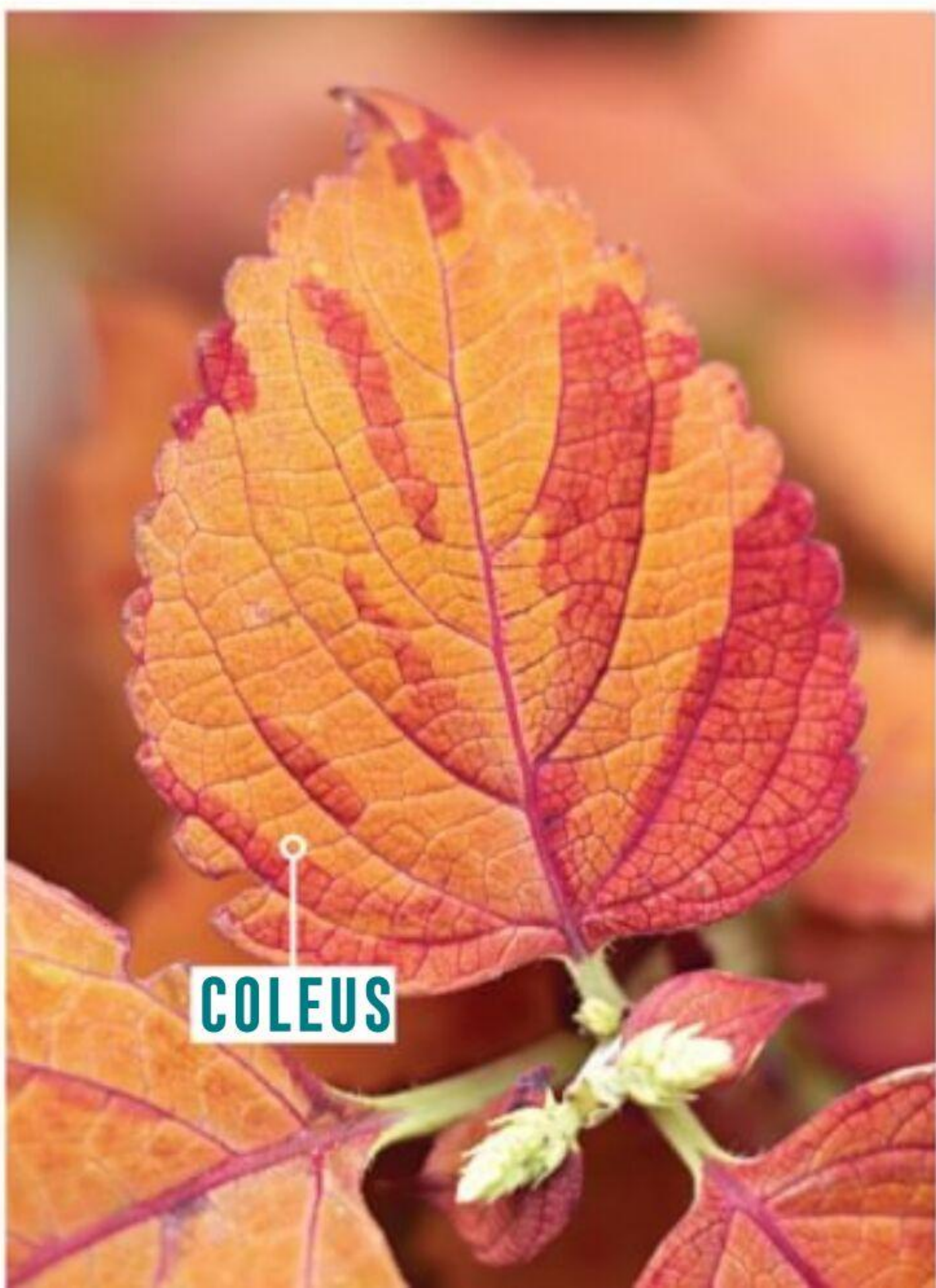
ASTILBE



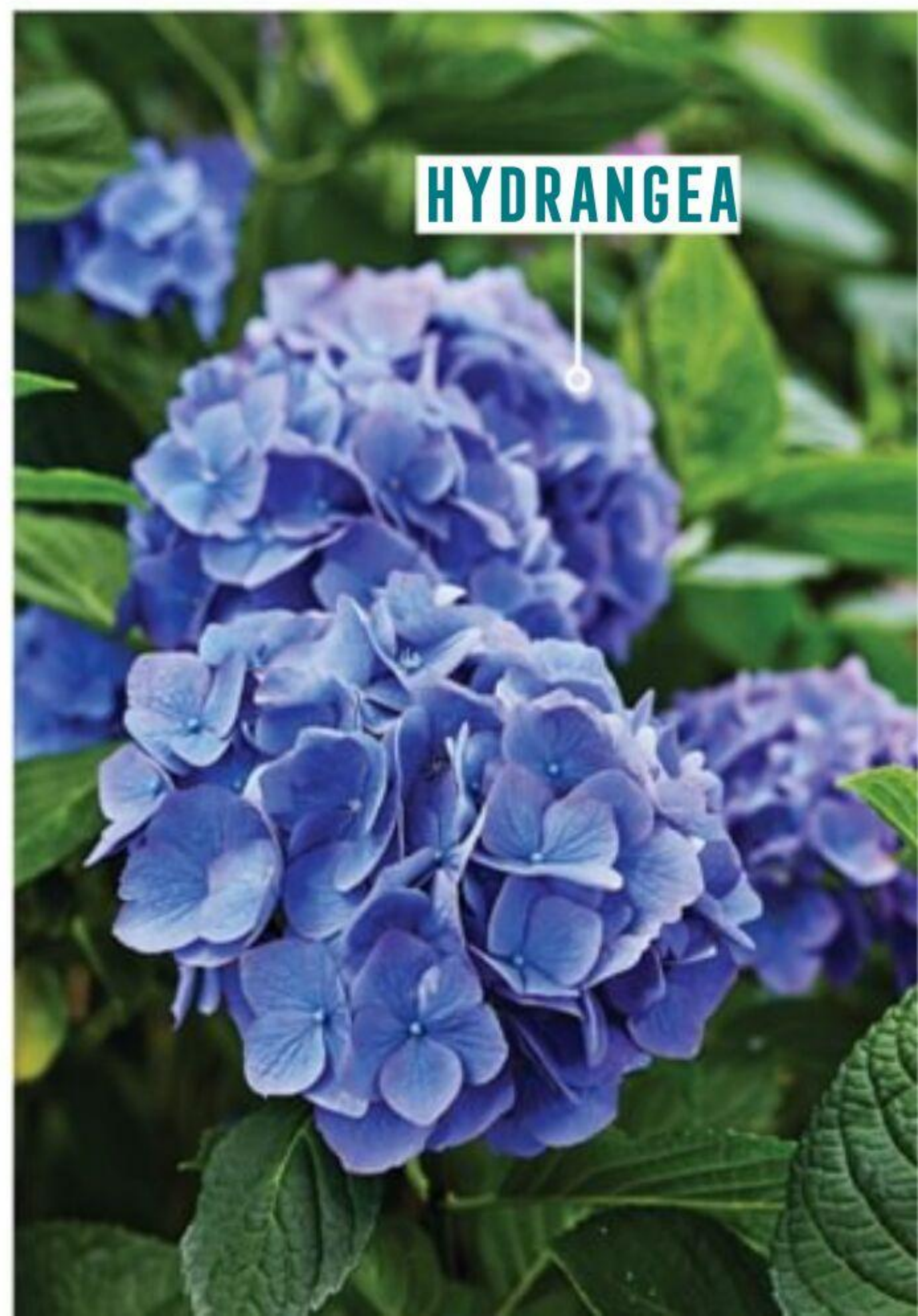
JAPANESE
FOREST GRASS



NORTHERN
MAIDENHAIR FERN



COLEUS



HYDRANGEA

SHADE

welcome POLLINATORS

DESIGNED TO DRAW GARDEN VISITORS,
THESE PLANS HELP BRING BEES,
BUTTERFLIES, AND A HOST OF
CREEPING, CRAWLING, AND FLYING
GUESTS TO YOUR GARDEN.

Preparing a bed or border for pollinators is a lot like hosting a dinner party for a crowd. Begin with the meal. Choose a hearty fare as your guests are certain to have an appetite—they've expended precious calories in order to arrive at your patch of earth. Not all plants are created equal, so be mindful when selecting plants with life-giving nectar.

Many new plant cultivars have petal-packed flowers. These gorgeous flowers have a high petal count but low nectar availability. Other popular garden plants, such as new coneflower hybrids, offer nectar, but scientists have found it is of lesser quality than nectar of native species. When possible, choose plants native to your region and plant in groups of three or more to catch the attention of pollinators.

In addition to providing a memorable meal, treat your pollinator guests to liquid refreshment in the form of a puddle, pond, birdbath, or any water-holding vessel. Encourage pollinators to stay awhile by providing shelter resources. This is as simple as leaving small brush and leaf piles in out-of-the-way spots. Finally, offer overwintering accommodations by letting the plants in your beds and borders stand until spring. Pollinators will shelter in the dry stems and leaves.

RIGHT: Butterfly weed is a North American native that is easy to grow from seed. Rich in nectar, this perennial grows for two to three years and then begins flowering. Once mature, it flowers for weeks and readily self-seeds. Butterfly weed is a host plant for monarch butterfly caterpillars.

PHOTO: KRITSADA

POLLINATOR



FLOWERING OASIS

CREATE A NEAR-PERFECT LANDING SPOT BY PAIRING LONG-BLOOMING, POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PERENNIALS WITH A SIMPLE WATER SOURCE.



green gardening

BEYOND BUTTERFLIES

Monarch butterflies get a lot of love (as they should!) in pollinator conversations, but there are hundreds of other animals that move pollen from one plant to another. Did you know pollinators are what scientists call a keystone species, meaning they are a necessary component for sustaining life on earth for all species? Get to know some other hardworking pollinators.

BEETLES

While ladybugs and predaceous ground beetles are well-known for their beneficial pest-control, flower-visiting beetles like soldier, long-horned, and sap beetles are important pollinators.

BUMBLEBEES

Generalists that visit all kinds of flowers and plants, bumblebees are excellent pollinators thanks to a long tongue that can burrow into complex blossoms. They feed from early spring to late autumn.

FLIES

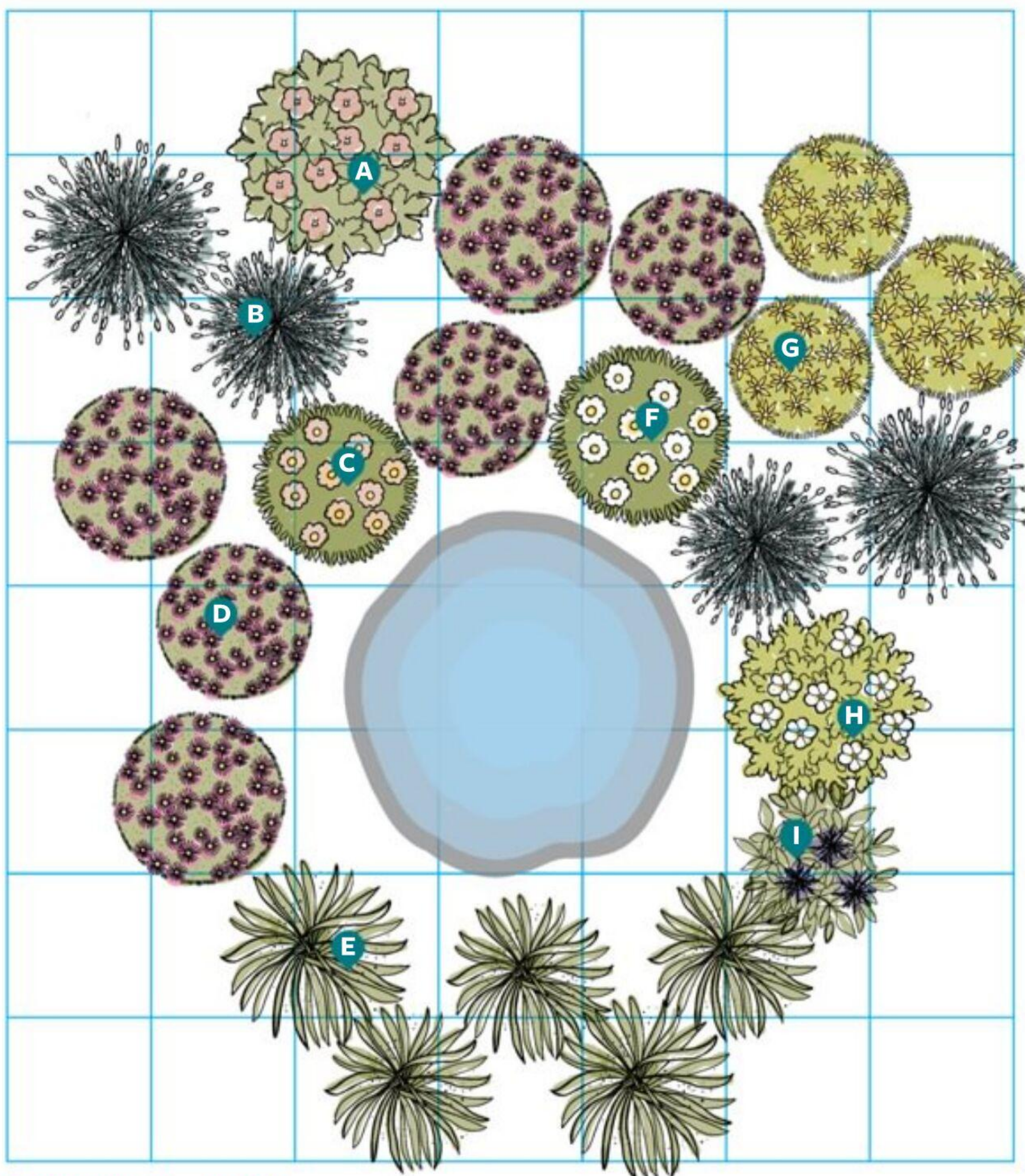
While the common housefly is considered a pest, the flower fly and bee fly are great pollinators, visiting a wide range of flowers. These small insects resemble bees but have only two wings (bees have four wings).

NATIVE BEES

Hundreds of different species of these tiny buzzing insects are native to North America. You'll find them nesting in the ground, in cavities in trees or twigs, and living solitarily. Native bees do not bother people unless they are disturbed.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Agile hummingbirds use their long beaks to feed on nectar deep inside a flower. When they're feeding, pollen adheres to their heads and throats. It is transferred when they move to the next flower.



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 1 Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) such as 'Laura'; Zones 4–8
- B** 4 Ornamental onion (*Allium* spp.) such as 'Mount Everest'; Zones 4–8
- C** 1 Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*); Zones 3–10
- D** 6 Betony (*Stachys officinalis*) such as 'Hummelo'; Zones 4–8
- E** 5 Purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*) such as 'Skyracer'; Zones 5–8
- F** 1 White coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) such as 'White Swan'; Zones 3–8
- G** 3 Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); Zones 3–9
- H** 1 Calamint (*Calamintha nepeta*) such as 'Montrose White'; Zones 5–9
- I** 1 Cranesbill (*Geranium x hybrida*) such as 'Rozanne'; Zones 4–8

tip

PROVIDE WATER SOURCES THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS. CREATE SHALLOW DEPRESSIONS WHERE WATER CAN PUDDLE, AND INCLUDE A BIRDBATH OR TWO.

WILD AND FREE

THE BEST POLLINATOR GARDENS MIMIC NATURE—PLANTS SPREAD TO FORM COLONIES OF COLOR, GROWING TOGETHER OVER TIME. HERE'S A PLAN TO GET STARTED.



know&grow

MAKE YOUR GARDEN POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY

GO NATIVE

Choose species that are native to your region. These plants are adapted to the local growing conditions and known by pollinators. Avoid cultivars and hybrids; straight species are more useful to pollinators.

PLANT FOR EVERY SEASON

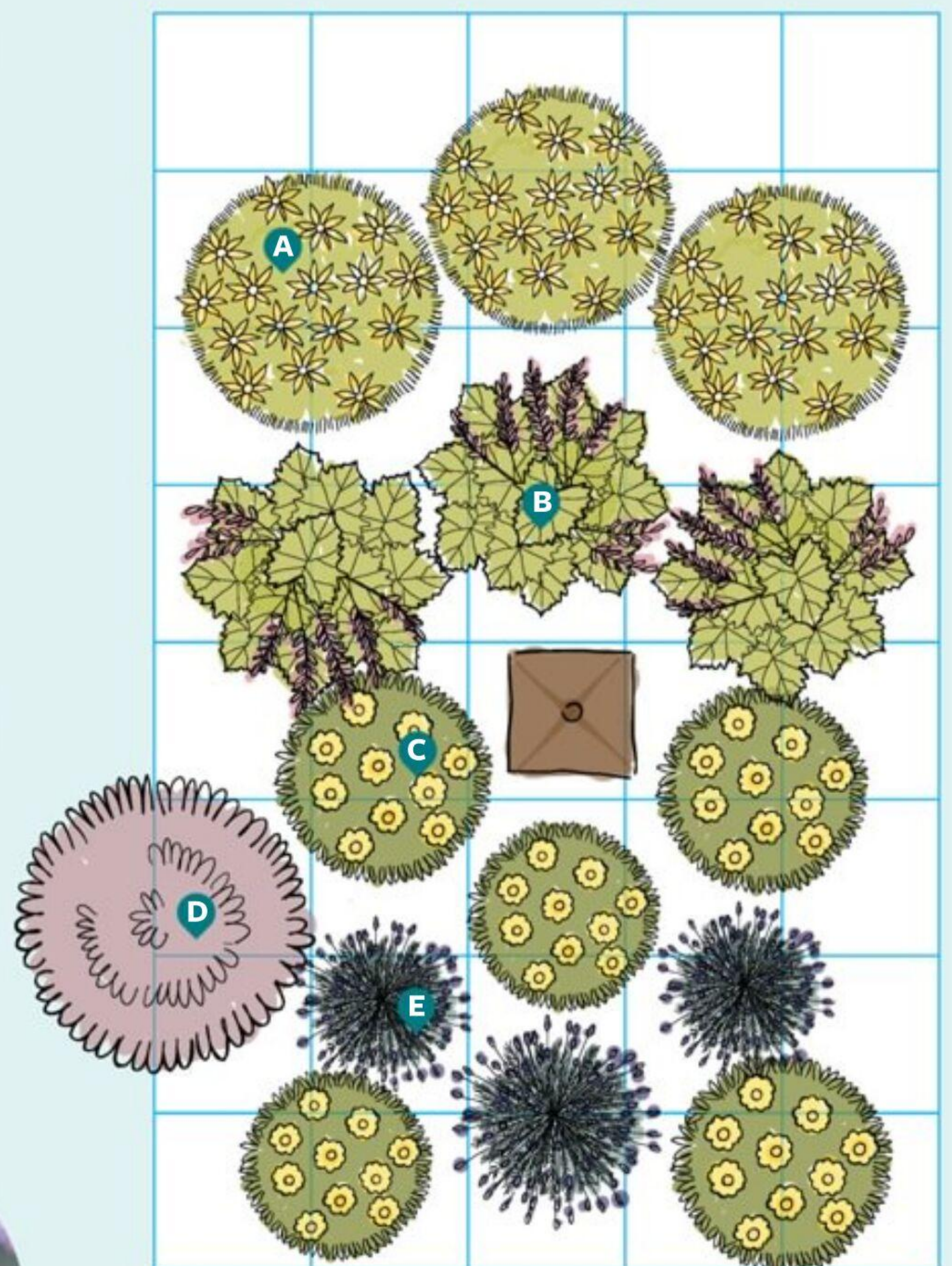
When adding new plants to your landscape, pay close attention to bloom time. Aim to include ample nectar options for pollinators in spring and fall when nectar sources are limited.

REMEMBER HABITAT

Host plants that support caterpillar growth are easy to overlook. Add these essential plants to the landscape based on the needs of pollinators in your garden. Asters, parsley, and oaks are all popular butterfly host plants.

BE PATIENT

It will take about three years for perennials to reach maturity and for pollinators to take up residence in your garden.



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

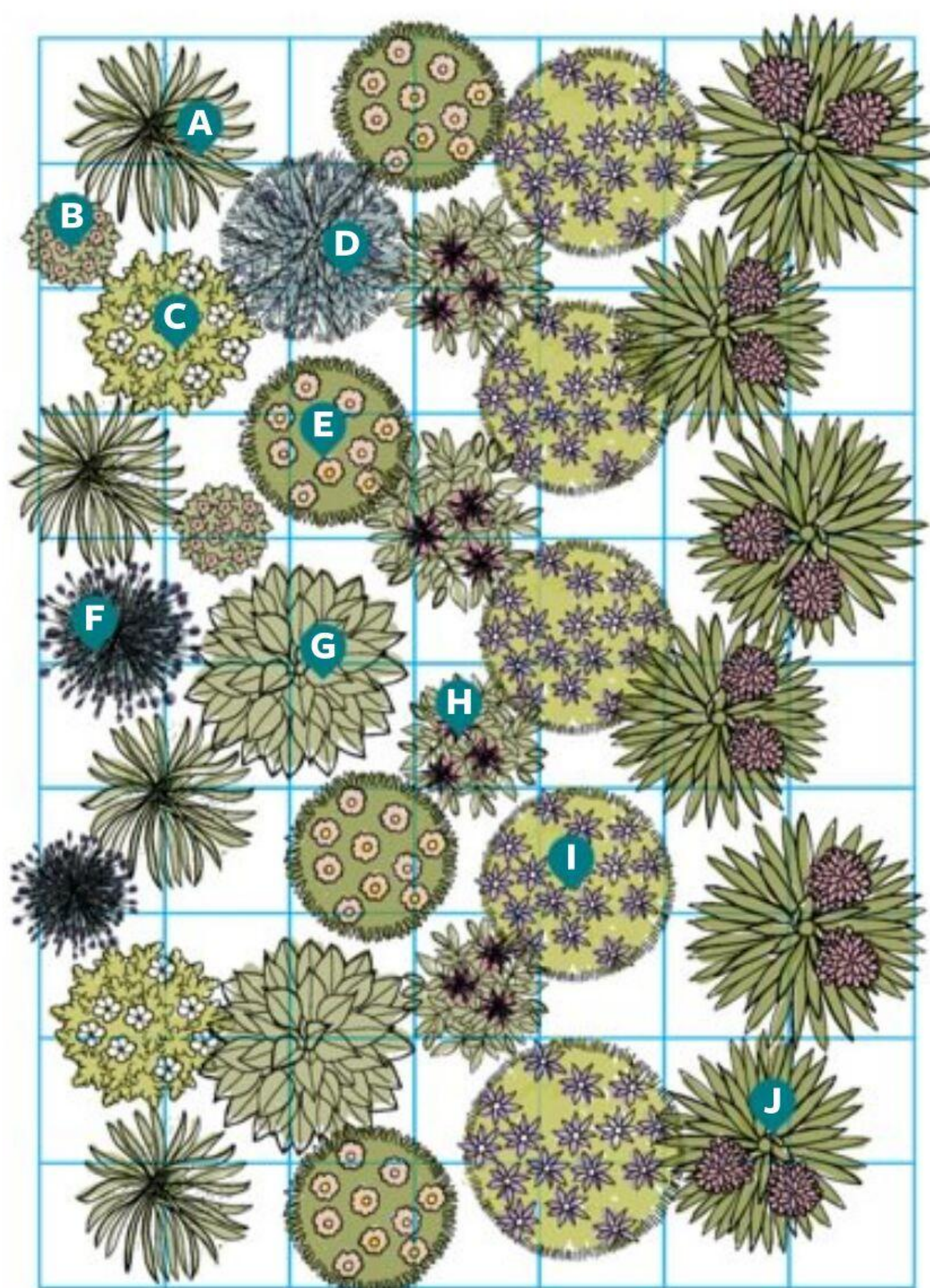
- A 3 Compass plant** (*Silphium laciniatum*); Zones 3–8
- B 3 Joe pye weed** (*Eutrochium* spp.) such as 'Gateway'; Zones 4–9
- C 5 Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) such as 'Indian Summer'; Zones 3–7
- D 1 Ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) such as 'Diabolo'; Zones 3–7
- E 3 Tall verbena** (*Verbena bonariensis*); Zones 7–11, often grown as an annual

tip

BE CHEMICAL-FREE WHENEVER POSSIBLE. PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES KILL POLLINATORS.

A LIVELY BORDER

PERFECT FOR AN AREA IN FULL SUN, THIS BORDER INCLUDES PLANTS AT VARIOUS HEIGHTS TO ATTRACT A HOST OF DIFFERENT POLLINATORS.



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 4 Tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) such as 'Northern Lights'; Zones 4–9
- B** 2 Wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis*); Zones 4–8
- C** 2 Calamint (*Calamintha nepeta*) such as 'Montrose White'; Zones 5–9
- D** 1 Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) such as 'Lacey Blue'; Zones 5–9
- E** 4 Purple coneflower (*Echinacea* hybrid) such as 'Magnus'; Zones 3–8
- F** 2 Nemesis (*Nemesis fruticans*) such as 'Bluebird'; Annual
- G** 2 Stonecrop (*Hylotelephium* spp.) such as 'Autumn Joy'; Zones 3–9
- H** 4 Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) such as 'Laura'; Zones 4–8
- I** 5 Giant hyssop (*Agastache x hybrida*) such as 'Blue Fortune'; Zones 5–9
- J** 6 Joe pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.) such as 'Gateway'; Zones 4–9

POLLINATOR BORDER

FLANK AN ESTABLISHED WALKWAY WITH THIS POLLEN- AND NECTAR-RICH PATCH AND ENJOY POLLINATORS UP CLOSE.

tip

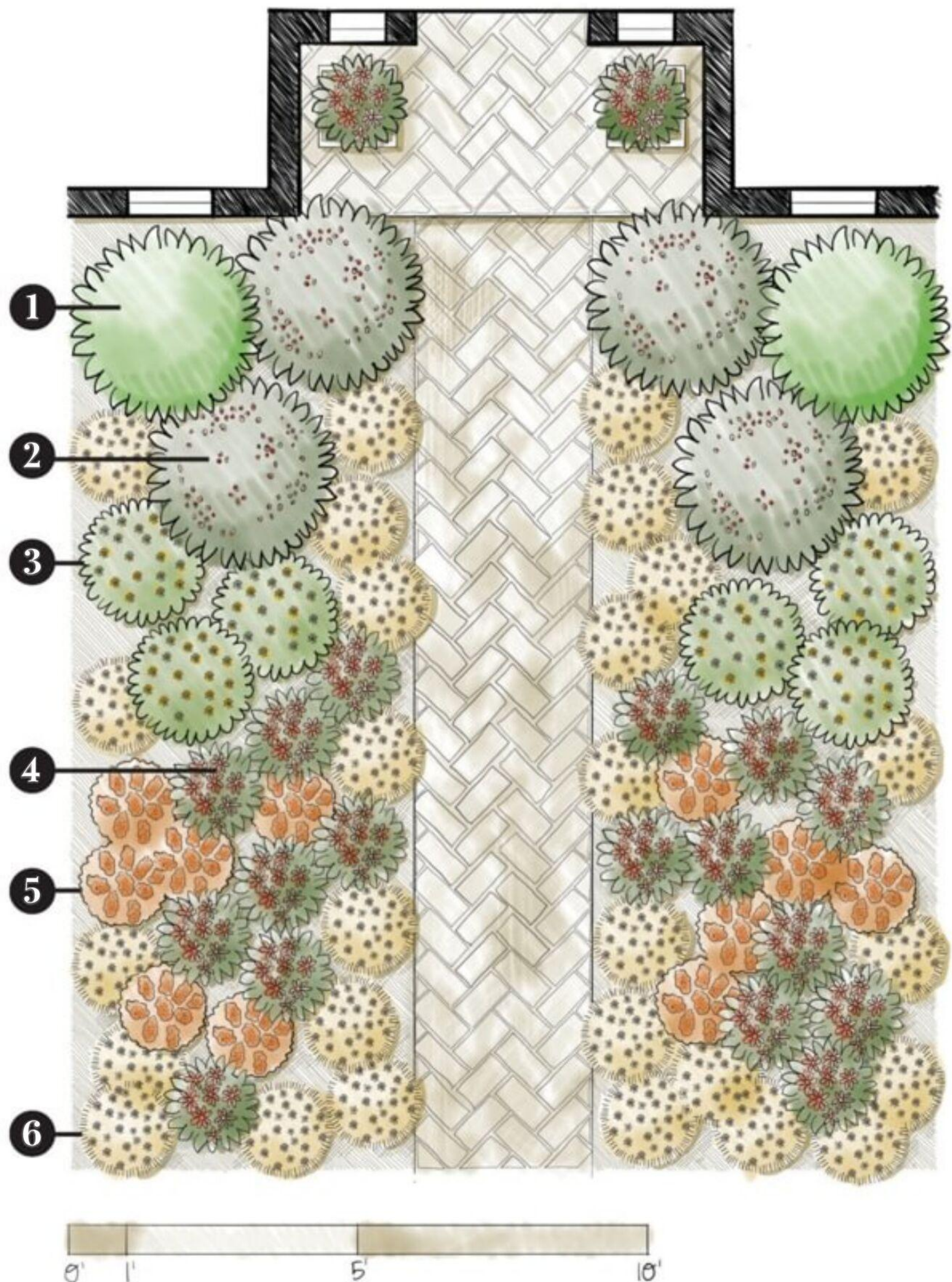
DON'T CUT BACK PERENNIALS UNTIL SPRING, AND ALLOW PILES OF LEAVES TO STAND IN THE GARDEN THROUGH WINTER TO PROTECT OVERWINTERING POLLINATORS.

know&grow

MAKE IT YOURS

Adapt planting plans like this one to your unique site.

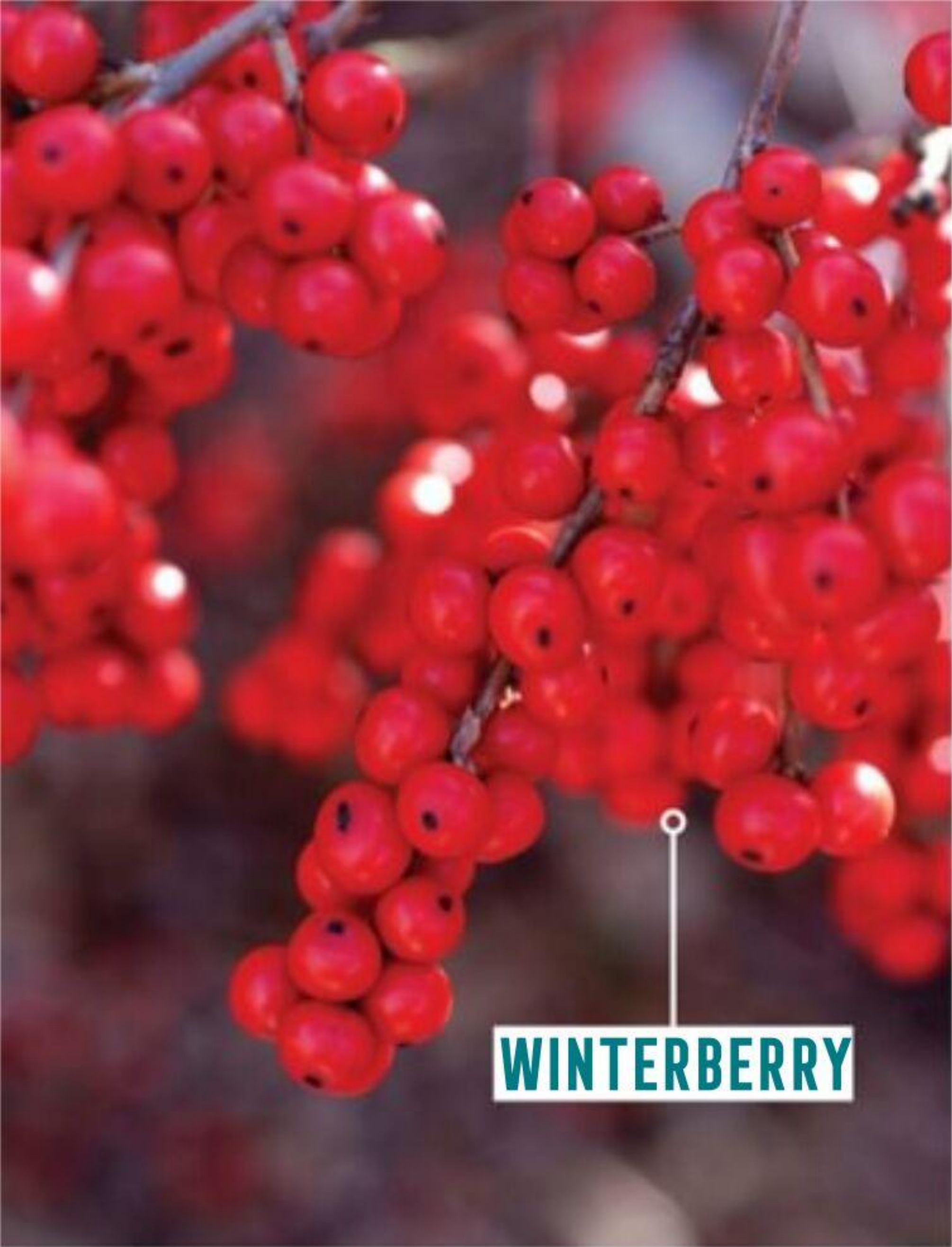
- Note the relationships between plants. Which plants are growing beside each other? Replicate those relationships when you expand or shrink the plan.
- If space is a limiting factor, resist the urge to pack more plants in a small area. Instead plant a portion of the plan in the space available, then plant the remaining portion in an adjacent spot.
- Add a personal touch. Do you have a preferred color you'd like to bring to the landscape? Or maybe a beloved plant? The best gardens are expressions of your personality, so incorporate your favorite elements.



plant list

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Winterberry male cultivar (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) such as 'Mr. Poppins'; Zones 3–9</p> <p>2 Winterberry female cultivar (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) such as 'Berry Poppins'; Zones 3–9</p> <p>3 False sunflower (<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>) such as 'Tuscan Gold'; Zones 4–9</p> | <p>4 Orange coneflower (<i>Echinacea</i> hybrid) such as 'Color Coded Orange You Awesome'; Zones 3–8</p> <p>5 Butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>); Zones 3–9</p> <p>6 Threadleaf coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>) such as 'Zagreb'; Zones 3–9</p> |
|---|--|

POLLINATOR



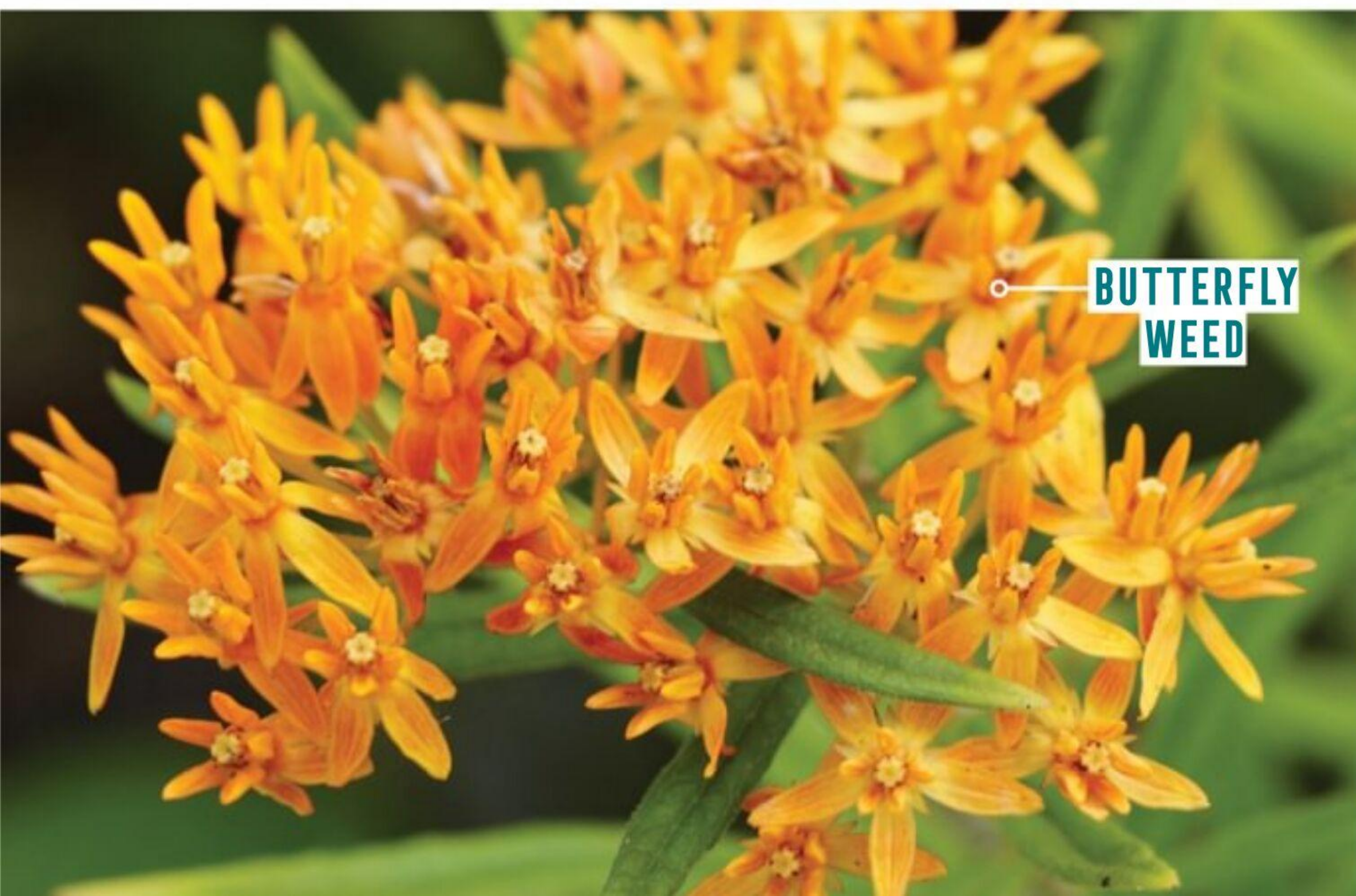
WINTERBERRY



THREADLEAF
COREOPSIS



CONEFLOWER



BUTTERFLY
WEED

green gardening

BE A GOOD HOST

When gardening for pollinators, be sure to include host plants, which provide essential food for caterpillars. Add a few of these excellent butterfly host plants to your next bed or border.

TREES

Aspen, birch, cottonwood, hackberry, hawthorn, linden, oak, poplar, serviceberry, willow

SHRUBS

New Jersey tea, pussy willow, silky dogwood, spicebush, sumac, viburnum species, winterberry

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

Alfalfa, aster, black-eyed Susan, clover, columbine, dill, fennel, milkweed, New England aster, parsley, pearly everlasting, purple coneflower, violet

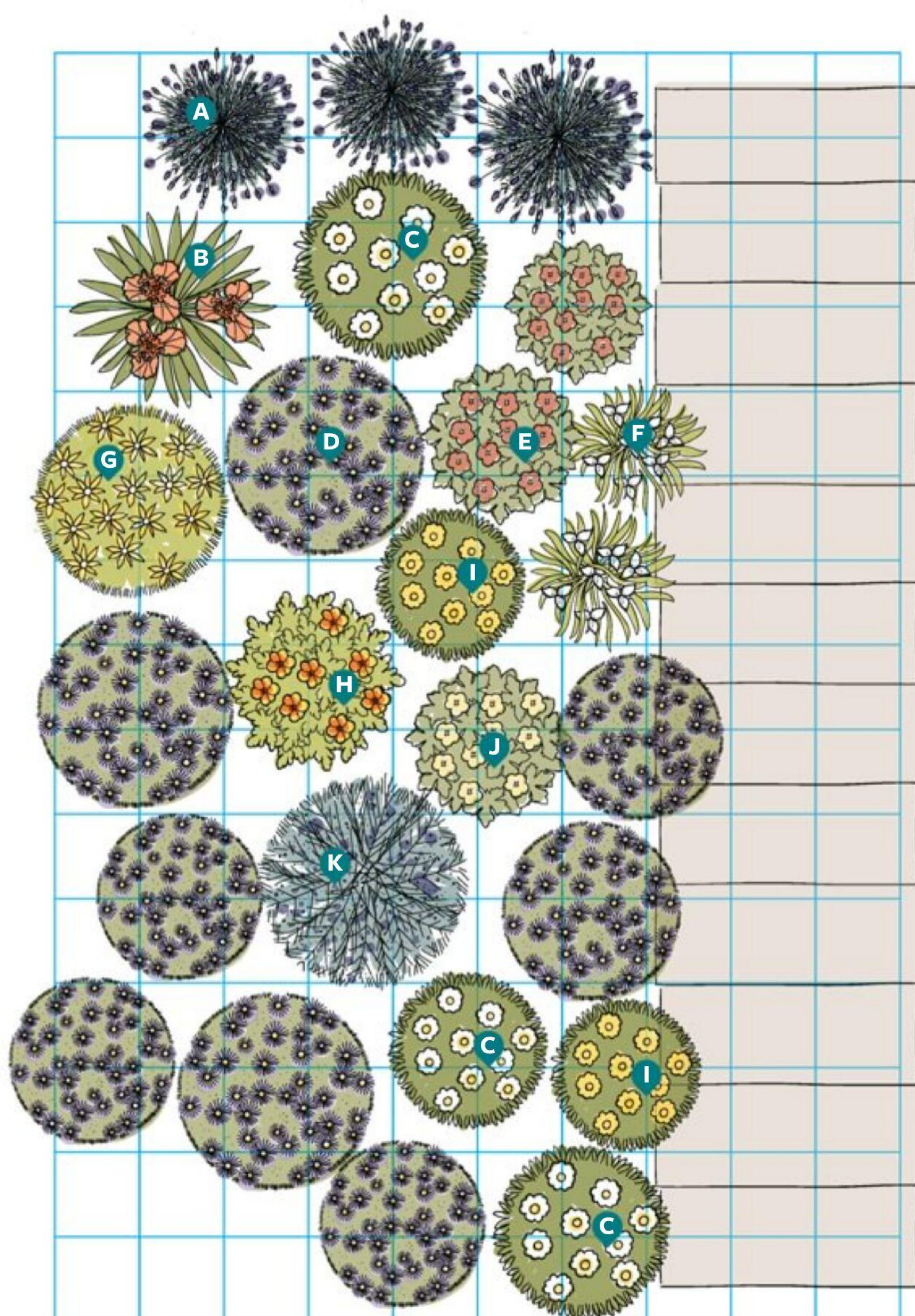
LIVING TAPESTRY

PERENNIALS WEAVE TOGETHER TO CREATE THIS LONG-BLOOMING, NECTAR-RICH GARDEN. PLANTED ON FLAT TERRAIN OR A SLOPE, IT IS SURE TO BE POPULAR WITH WINGED VISITORS.





PHOTO: KRITSADA



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 3 **Blazing star** (*Liatris spicata*) such as 'Kobold'; Zones 3–8
- B** 1 **Butterfly weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*); Zones 3–9
- C** 3 **Shasta daisy** (*Leucanthemum x superbum*) such as 'Becky'; Zones 5–9
- D** 8 **Catmint** (*Nepeta racemosa*) such as 'Walker's Low'; Zones 4–8
- E** 2 **Red coneflower** (*Echinacea* hybrid) such as 'Sombrero Salsa Red'; Zones 3–8
- F** 2 **Obedient plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*) such as 'Miss Manners'; Zones 3–9
- G** 1 **Threadleaf coreopsis** (*Coreopsis verticillata*) such as 'Moonbeam'; Zones 3–9
- H** 1 **Blanket flower** (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*); Zones 3–10
- I** 2 **Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) such as 'Indian Summer'; Zones 3–7
- J** 1 **Yellow coneflower** (*Echinacea* hybrid) such as 'Sombrero Sandy Yellow'; Zones 3–8
- K** 1 **Russian sage** (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) such as 'Lacey Blue'; Zones 5–9

POLLINATOR TOP 10

ANISE HYSSOP

(*Agastache foeniculum*); Zones 4–8. Flowers June through September. Deer-resistant.

ANNUAL SALVIA

(*Salvia* spp.); Annual. Available in shades of red, pink, purple, and white. Plant in groups of 3 or more.

BLANKET FLOWER

(*Gaillardia x grandiflora*); Zones 3–10. Grows best in well-drained soil and full sun.

CLEOME

(*Cleome spinosa*); Annual. Heirloom plant grows 3 to 4 feet tall. Favorite nectar source of hummingbirds.

COSMOS

(*Cosmos bipinnatus*); Annual. Start from seed planted directly in the garden in late spring.

CRABAPPLE

(*Malus* spp.) such as ‘Prairifire’; Zones 4–8. Small tree with fragrant spring flowers. Good nectar source for early spring pollinators.

GOLDENROD

(*Solidago* spp.); Zones 3–8. A North American native and prairie plant. Grows well in poor soil.

NEW ENGLAND ASTER

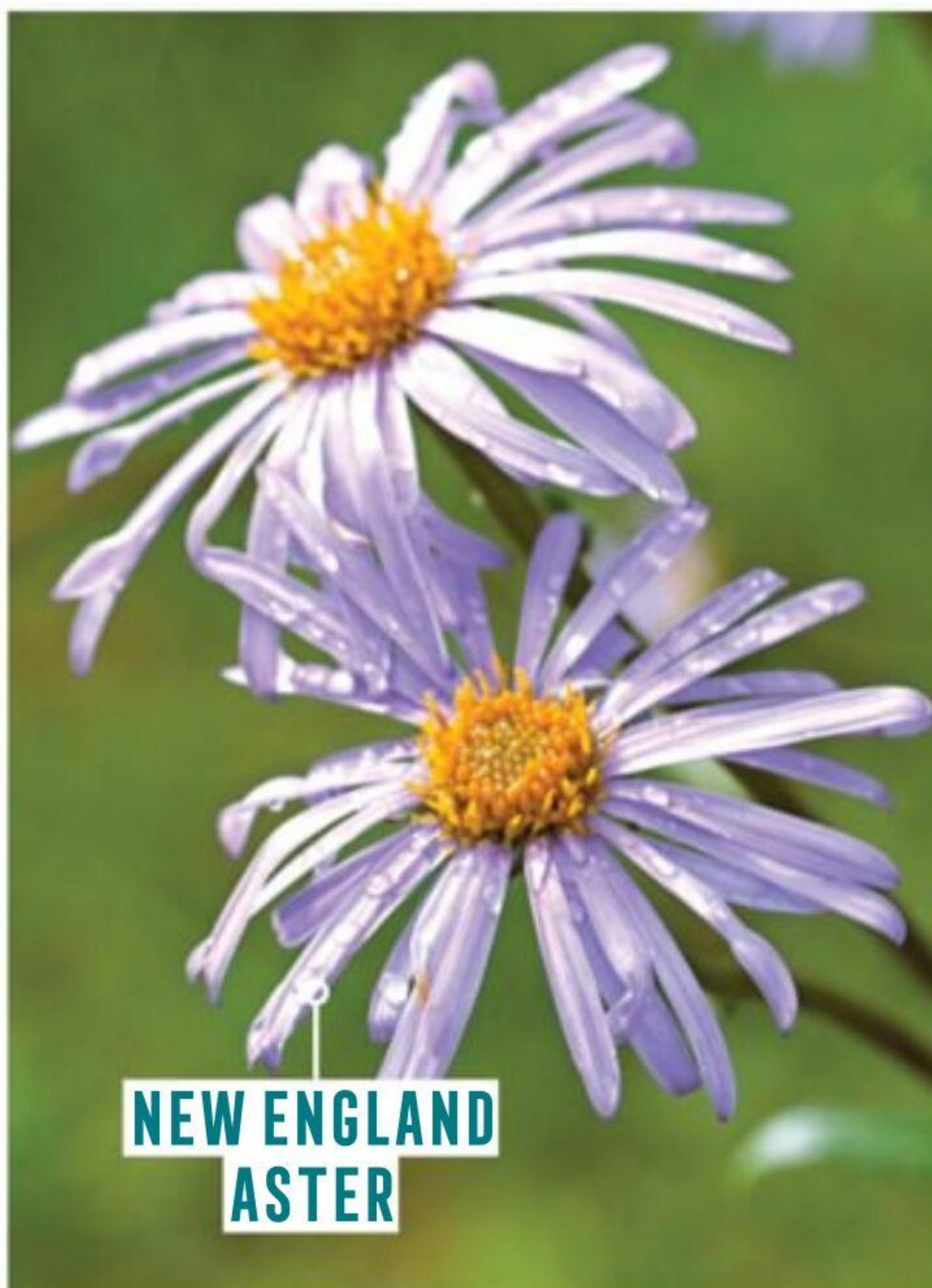
(*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*); Zones 4–8. Cut plants back by one-third their height in mid-July to prevent floppy stems.

PARSLEY

(*Petroselinum crispum*); Annual. Easy-to-grow culinary plant and host plant for butterfly caterpillars.

SUNFLOWER

(*Helianthus annuus*); Annual. Start from seed planted in the garden in late spring. Good cutting flower.



ANISE
HYSSOP

POLLINATOR

CRABAPPLE

PARSLEY

COSMOS

GOLDENROD

PHOTOS: KRITSADA, MARTY BALDWIN, FOTOATELIER FRICKE, EDWARD GOHLICH, PETER KRUMHARDT,
BLAINE MOATS, CAMERON SADEGHPOUR, ANDREAS TRAUTTMANSDORFF, GRANT WEBSTER, JAY WILDE

PLANS FOR DINNER

PLANTED WITH SPRING GREENS AND SUN-RIPENED TOMATOES (AND MORE), YOUR GARDEN CAN PROVIDE ULTRAFRESH INGREDIENTS FOR DELICIOUS, HEALTHFUL MEALS.

Planning a vegetable garden is a little like making a meal plan. What are your go-to meals? What vegetables and herbs are highlighted in your favorite recipes? Build your vegetable garden around dishes you love, and you'll be more likely to visit it often, caring well for the garden from the beginning of the season until the first frost in fall.

The fruits of your labor will be a celebrated component of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Aim to harvest vegetables and herbs every couple of days. With a little extra effort, you can enjoy garden produce deep into winter by preserving the taste of summer in canned salsas, relishes, and jams. Choose cultivars that are well-suited for long-term storage.

There are hundreds of vegetable cultivars on the market. The cultivars suggested here are award-winning varieties that have proven production, pest resistance, and intense flavor. Don't hesitate to try new-to-you veggies. You will likely find the flavor of homegrown produce surpasses that of store-bought.

RIGHT: A small garden like this raised-bed patch can be super productive when thoughtfully planned. This springtime garden includes ready-to-harvest rhubarb, chives, parsley, and spinach. The peas rambling up the trellis will be ready to pick in a couple weeks.



PHOTO: DANA GALLAGHER



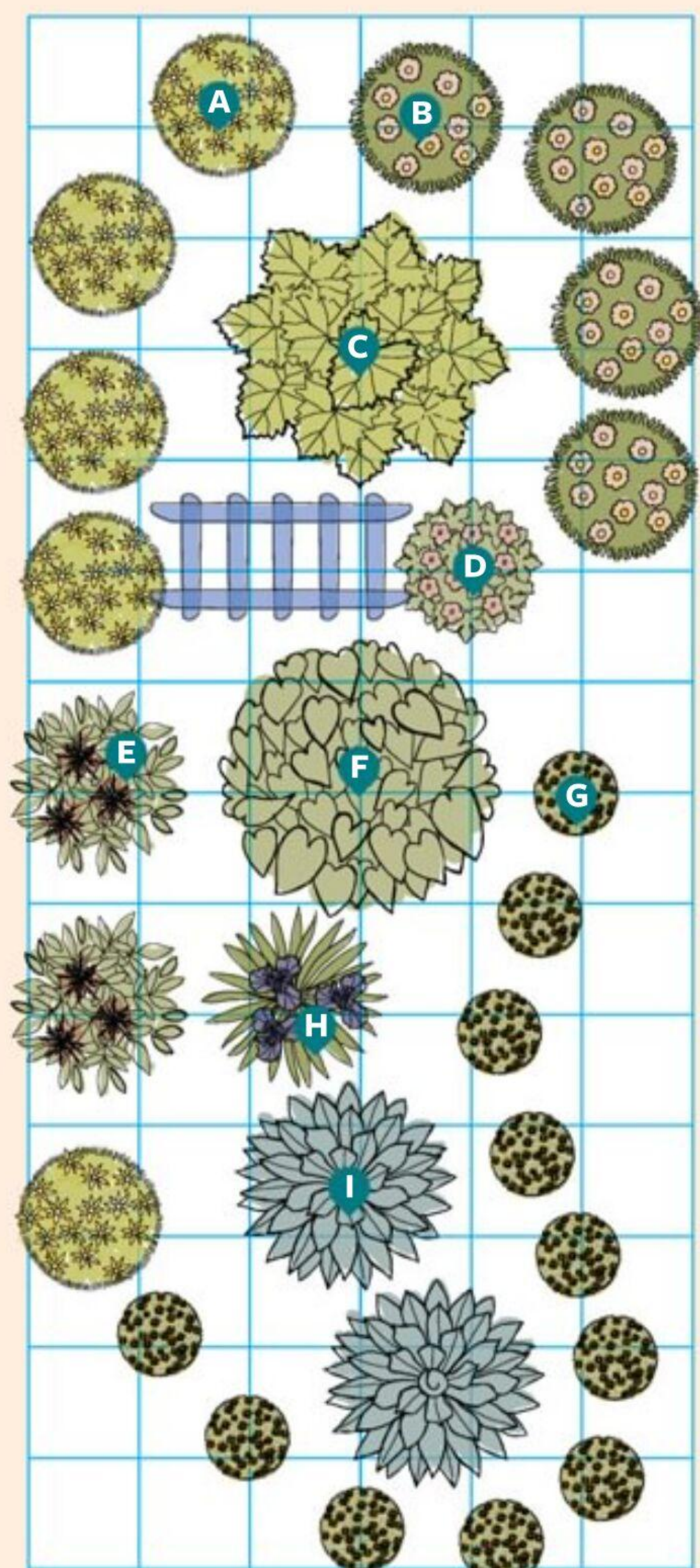
COLORFUL COMBO

MINGLE VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS TOGETHER IN THIS PLAN THAT IS BOTH PRODUCTIVE AND PRETTY.



plant list

- A** 5 Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) such as 'Sungold'; Annual
- B** 4 Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*) such as 'State Fair'; Annual
- C** 1 Rhubarb (*Rheum* hybrid) such as 'Valentine'; Zones 3–8
- D** 1 Mandevilla (*Mandevilla x amabilis*) such as 'Tropica Grandiosa'; Annual
- E** 2 Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) such as 'Celebrity'; Annual
- F** 1 Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) such as 'Straight Eight'; Annual
- G** 11 Marigold (*Tagetes* spp.) such as 'Autumn Orange'; Annual
- H** 1 Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) such as 'Early Midnight'; Annual
- I** 2 Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) such as 'Fast Vantage'; Annual



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

know&grow

GROW UP

Climbing and rambling vegetables can be trained up a trellis to save space in a small garden and ease harvest later in the season. Cucumbers, melon, and tomatoes all benefit from a sturdy trellis or cage. These tips will ensure your veggies rise up.



GO BIG

When you have a choice, select the largest, most heavy-duty support appropriate for your plant. For example, a 5-foot-tall tomato cage is preferred over a 3-foot-tall cage.

PLACE AT PLANTING

Anchor a sturdy trellis in the ground at planting time so as not to disturb the roots later the season.

TRAIN AS THEY GROW

Begin training the plants when they are young. Tender new stems are easy to wind around plant supports.

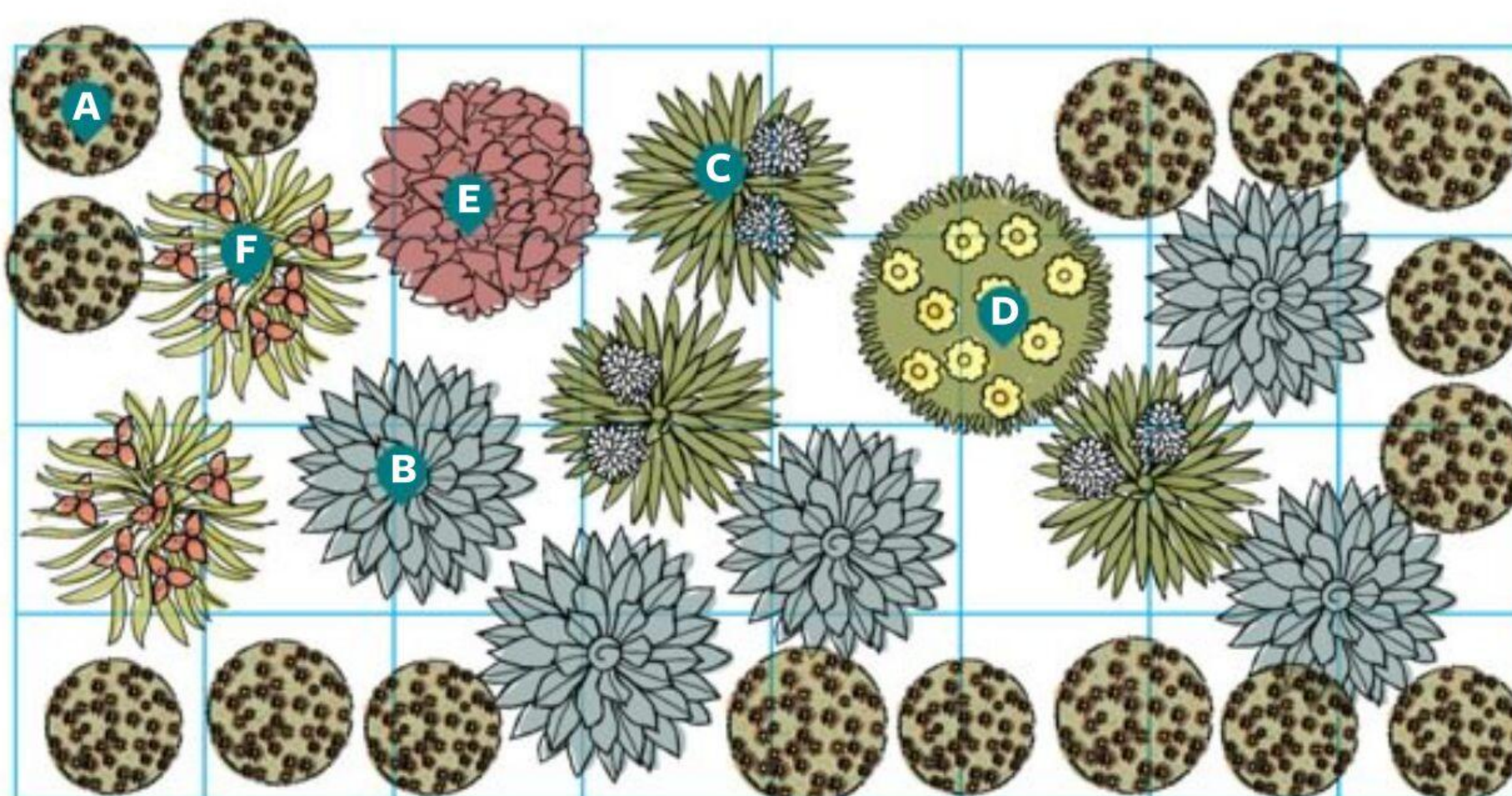
RAISE UP

USE A RAISED BED TO TRANSFORM ANY SUNNY SPOT INTO AN EDIBLE GARDEN.
BUILD YOUR OWN BED OR PURCHASE AN EASY-TO-ASSEMBLE KIT.



plant list

- A 16 Marigold** (*Tagetes* spp.) such as 'Autumn Orange'; Annual
- B 5 Cabbage** (*Brassica oleracea*) such as 'Fast Vantage'; Annual
- C 3 Pepper** (*Capsicum annuum*) such as 'California Wonder'; Annual
- D 1 Sunflower** (*Helianthus annuus*) such as 'Suncredible Yellow'; Annual
- E 1 Swiss chard** (*Beta vulgaris*) such as 'Bright Lights'; Annual
- F 2 Ornamental pepper** (*Capsicum annuum*) such as 'Chinese Five Color'; Annual

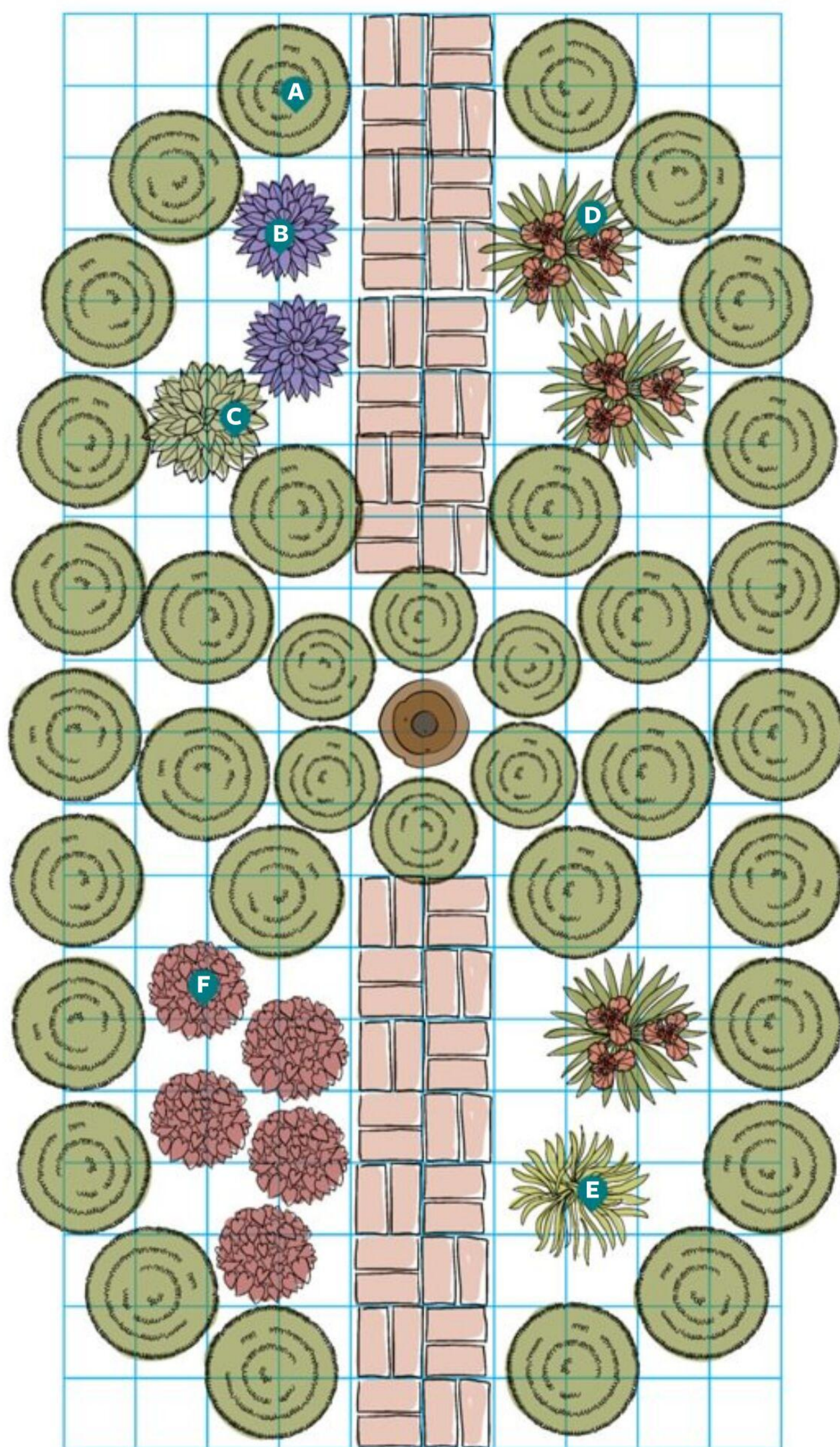


EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

BOXED IN

BOXWOOD SHRUBS WIND AROUND PLANTING POCKETS FILLED WITH EDIBLES IN A FORMAL TWIST ON A VEGGIE GARDEN.





EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

A 36 Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) such as 'Chicagoland Green'; Zones 5–8

B 2 Purple basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) such as 'Purple Ruffles'; Annual

C 1 Sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) such as 'Emerald Towers'; Annual

D 3 Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) such as 'Celebrity'; Annual

E 1 Pole bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) such as 'Kentucky Wonder'; Annual

F 5 Swiss chard (*Beta vulgaris*) such as 'Bright Lights'; Annual

plant facts

A GOOD START

Some edibles are easy to grow from seed sown right in the garden. Other plants require special care to start from seed so are often purchased as transplants from your local nursery. Here's how to start favorite veggies.

BEANS

Direct sow seeds after the last chance of frost is past. Sow a second crop about three weeks later to extend the harvest.

BROCCOLI & CAULIFLOWER

Find healthy transplants at your local garden center. Plant outside in early spring when soil can be worked.

CARROTS

Direct sow seeds in the garden after the last chance of frost is past. Mix the minuscule seeds with a small amount of sand for easier sowing.

CUCUMBERS

Direct sow seeds in the garden after the last chance of frost is past.

GREENS, LETTUCES, SPINACH & RADISHES

Direct sow seeds in the garden as soon as the soil can be worked in early spring.

MELONS

Direct sow all types of melon seeds in the garden after the last chance of frost is past.

TOMATOES, PEPPERS & EGGPLANTS

Find healthy transplants at your local garden center. Start hard-to-find varieties from seeds indoors about 6 weeks before planting outside.

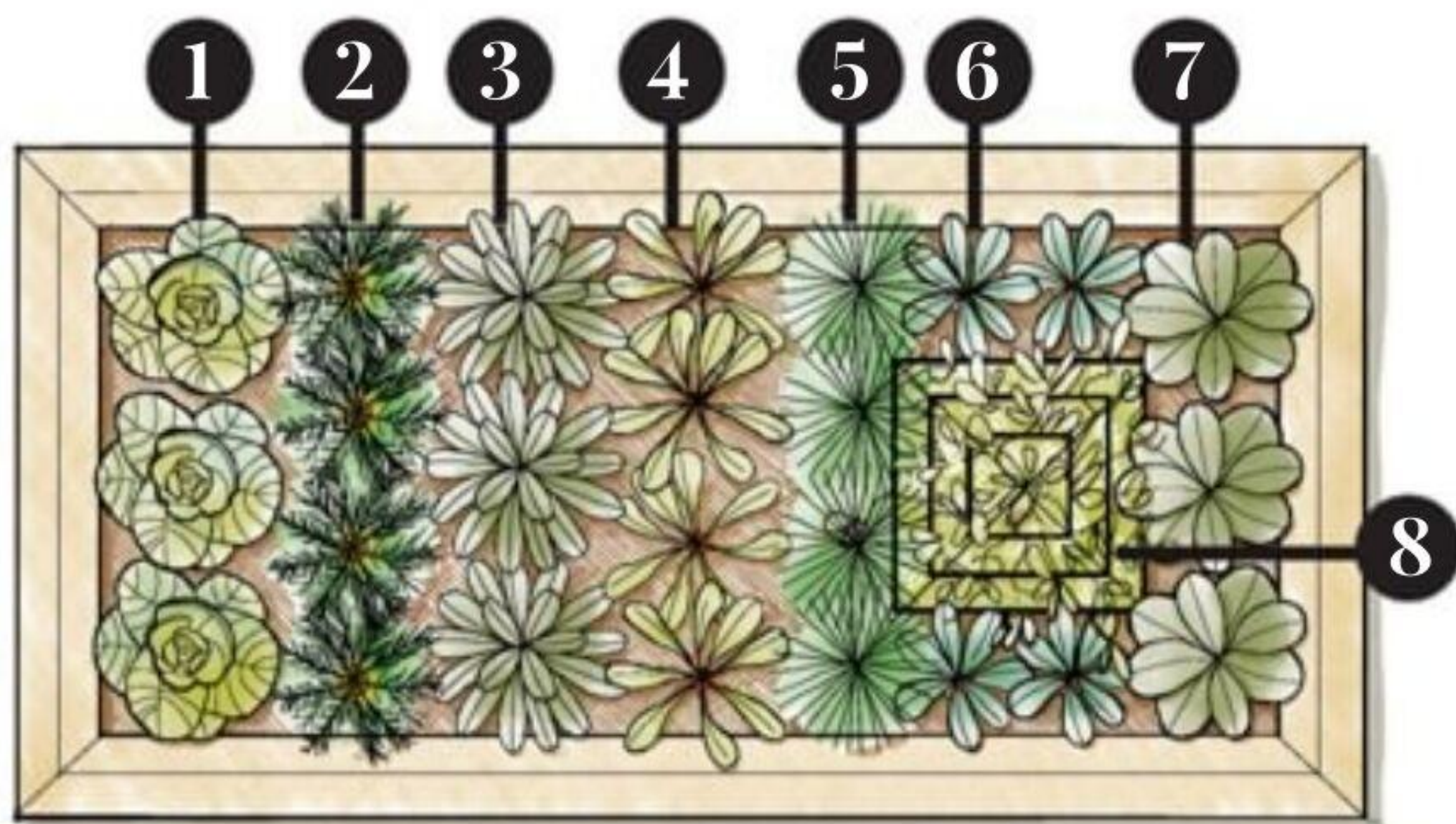


tip

PLANT FLOWERS WITH YOUR VEGETABLES TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS. IT'S A WIN-WIN—NECTAR FOR THE POLLINATORS PLUS MORE VEGGIES FOR YOU.

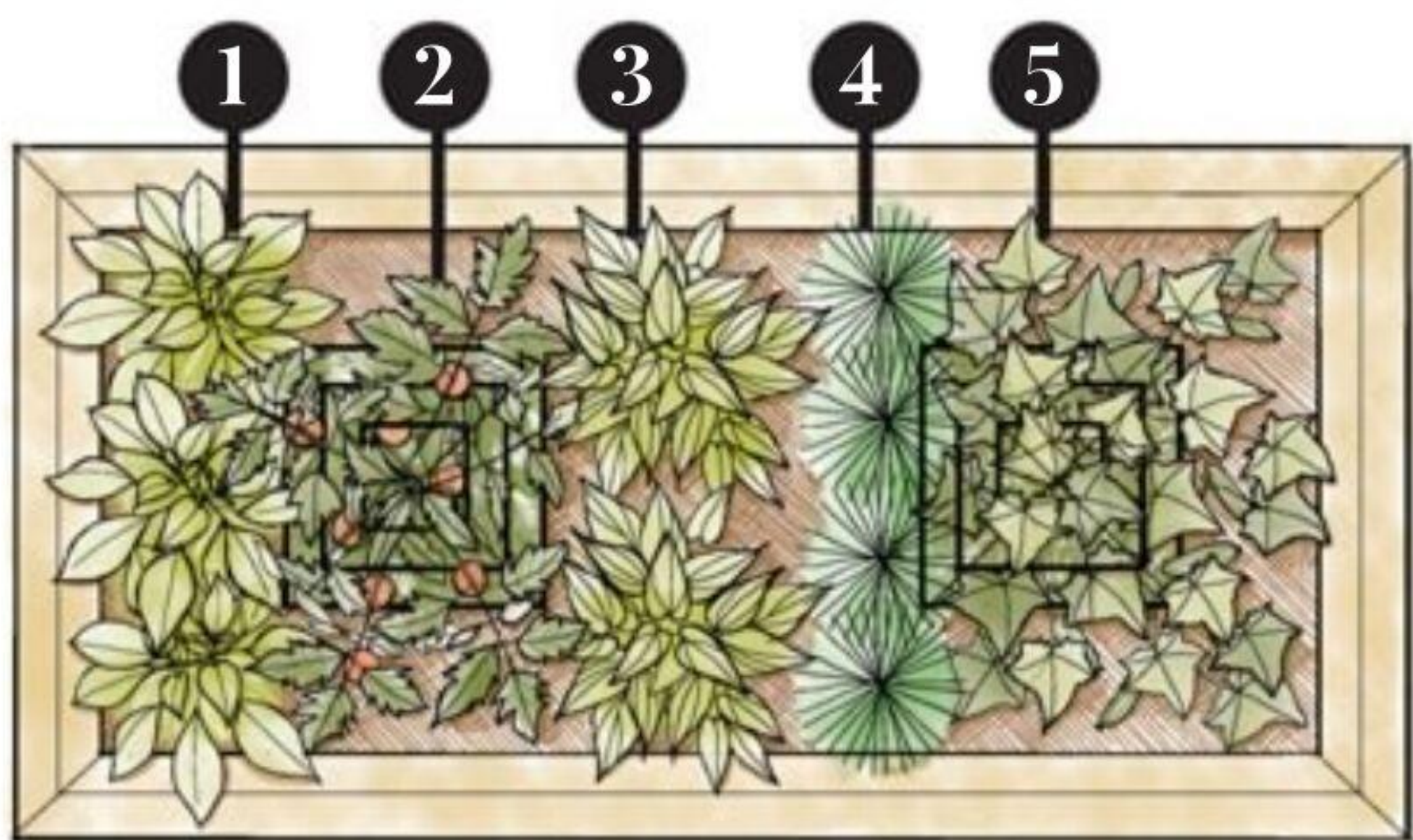
THREE-SEASON GARDEN

HARVEST GARDEN-FRESH PRODUCE SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL WITH THIS TRIO OF PLANS FOR A SINGLE RAISED-BED GARDEN.



plant list: spring

- 1 **Romaine lettuce** (*Lactuca sativa*) such as 'Parris Island Cos'; Annual
- 2 **Carrot** (*Daucus carota* var. *sativus*) such as 'Nantes Half Long'; Annual
- 3 **Kale** (*Brassica oleracea*) such as 'Prizm'; Annual
- 4 **Beet** (*Beta vulgaris*) such as 'Chioggia'; Annual
- 5 **Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*); Zones 4–8
- 6 **Radish** (*Raphanus sativus*) such as 'Cherry Belle'; Annual
- 7 **Spinach** (*Spinacia oleracea*) such as 'Bloomsdale Long Standing'; Annual
- 8 **Sugar snap pea** (*Pisum sativum*) such as 'Sugar Snap'; Annual

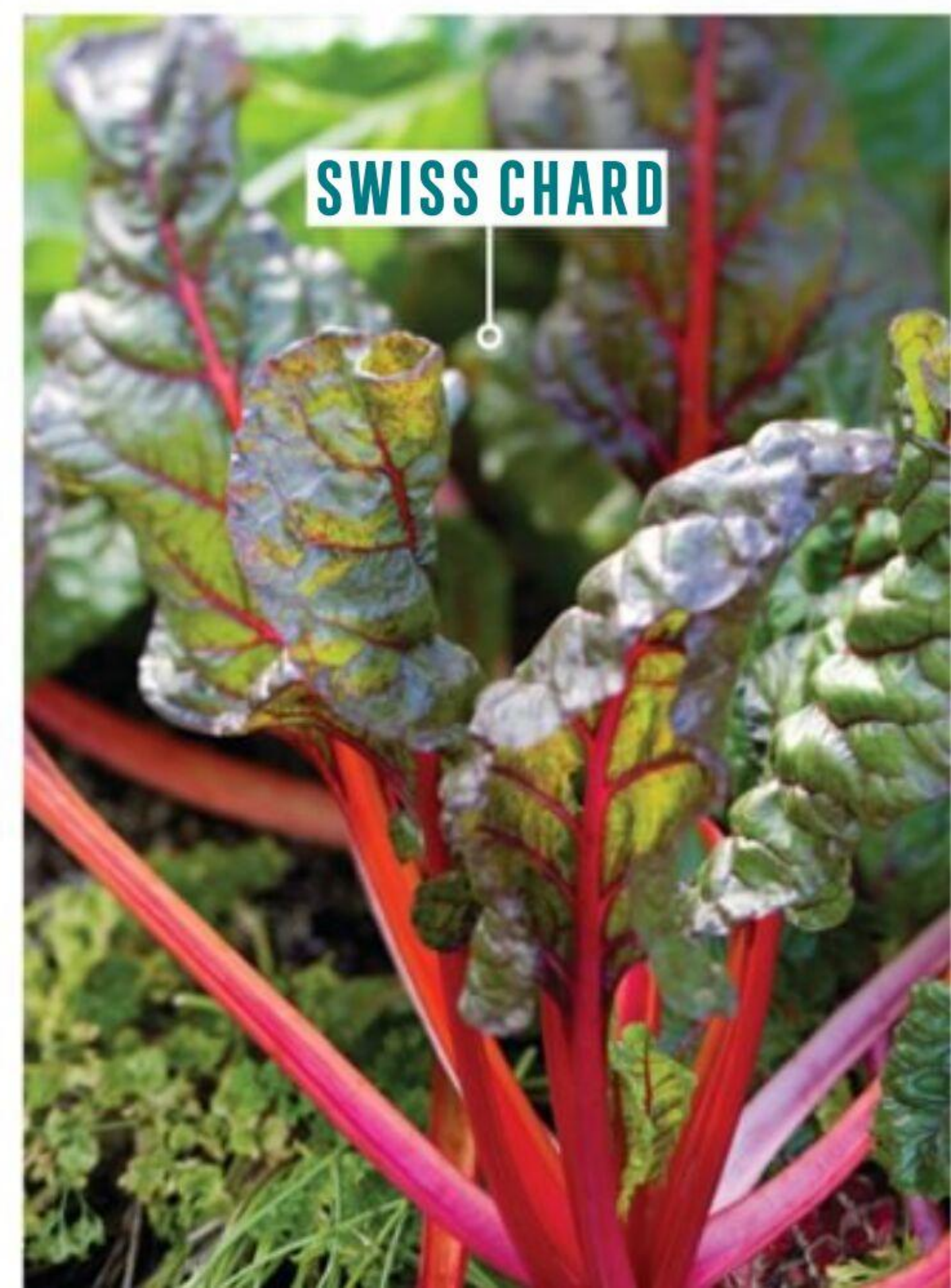


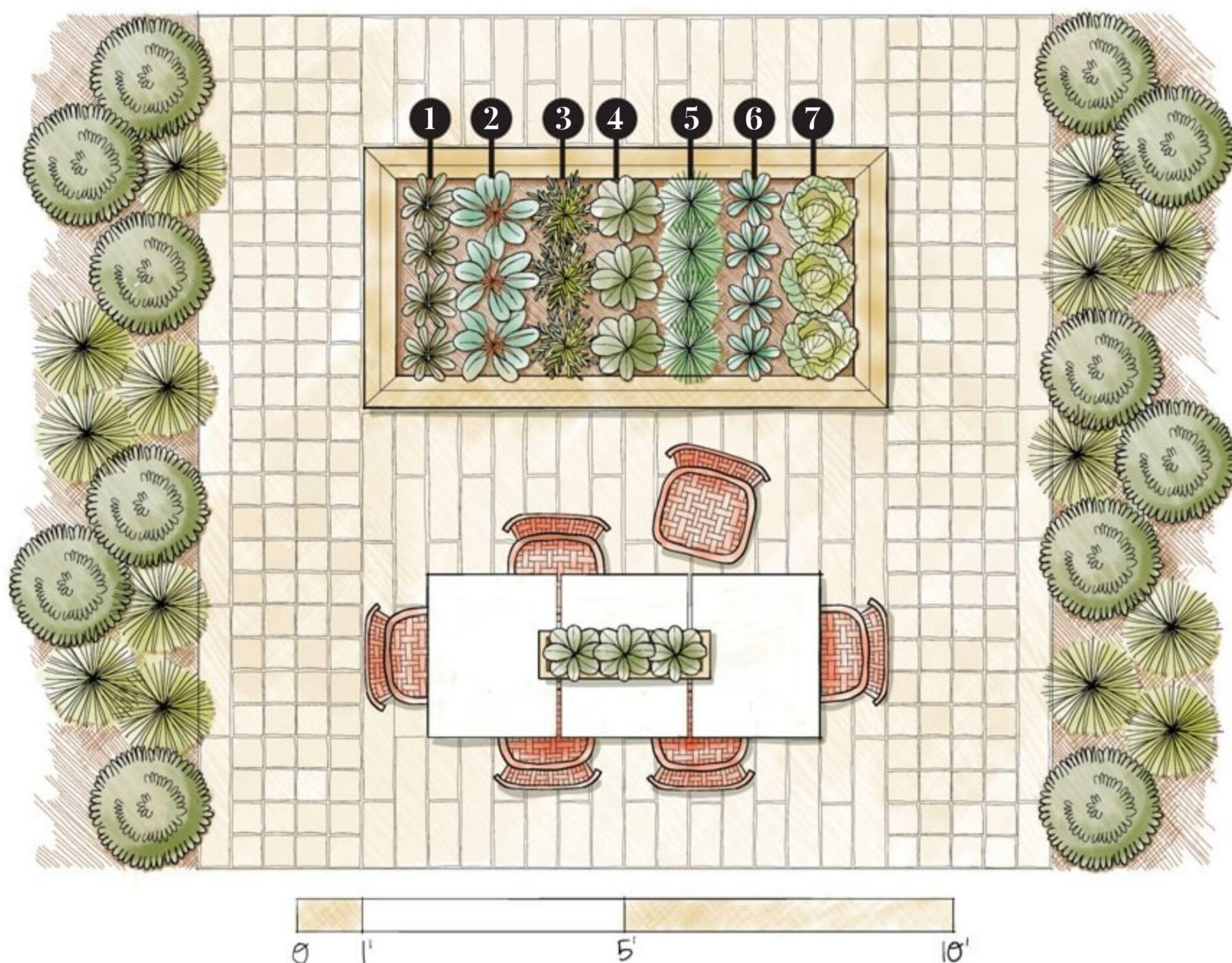
plant list: summer

- 1 **Pepper** (*Capsicum annuum*) such as 'California Wonder'; Annual
- 2 **Tomato** (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) such as 'Celebrity'; Annual
- 3 **Bush bean** (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) such as 'Blue Lake 274'; Annual
- 4 **Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*); Zones 4–8
- 5 **Cucumber** (*Cucumis sativus*) such as 'Straight Eight'; Annual

tip

SOILBORNE DISEASES CAN IMPACT TOMATOES, PEPPERS, EGGPLANT, AND POTATOES. MOVE THESE VEGGIES TO A NEW PLANTING SPOT EACH YEAR.





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RAISED-BED BASICS

A raised bed makes it possible to enjoy a productive garden despite the soil—or lack of soil—in your landscape. Employ a raised bed to top dense clay, exceptionally sandy soil, or rocky or rough terrain. Build your framed or unframed (also called mounded) raised bed with these tips.

Size matters

- The best raised beds are 12 to 24 inches tall and no more than 5 feet wide. Width is critical—you want to be able to easily reach the center of your raised bed without stepping into the bed.
- The shape of the raised bed is entirely up to you. Rectangular beds are easy to create with untreated timbers, but any shape will work as long as it is less than 5 feet wide.

Soil science

- Before filling your raised bed, rototill the top 6 inches of native soil. Fill your raised bed with a purchased soil mix that is high in organic matter. Look for a product labeled “topsoil.” Don’t use potting soil as it will dry out too quickly.

plant list: fall

- 1 Turnip** (*Brassica rapa*) such as ‘Purple Top White Globe’; Annual
- 2 Swiss chard** (*Beta vulgaris*) such as ‘Bright Lights’; Annual
- 3 Arugula** (*Eruca vesicaria* subsp. *sativa*) such as ‘Garden Tangy’; Annual
- 4 Spinach** (*Spinacia oleracea*) such as ‘Bloomsdale Long Standing’; Annual
- 5 Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*); Zones 4–8
- 6 Radish** (*Raphanus sativus*) such as ‘Cherry Belle’; Annual
- 7 Cabbage** (*Brassica oleracea*) such as ‘Fast Vantage’; Annual

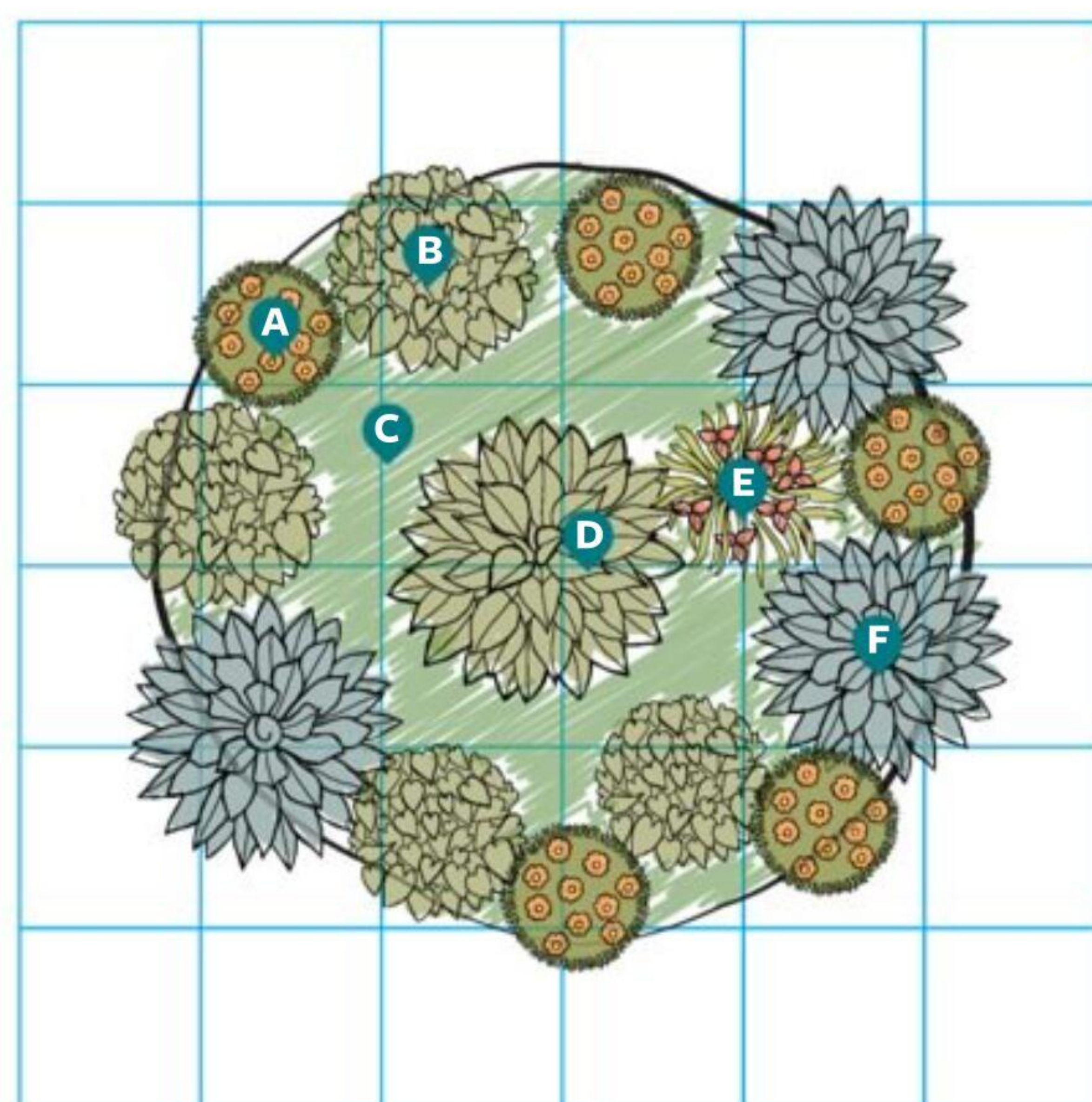
FRESH FLAVOR

CULINARY HERBS ARE SOME OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE EDIBLE PLANTS. THIS PLAN FEATURES KITCHEN FAVORITES.





PHOTO: BLAINE MOATS



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 5 **Nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*) such as 'Empress of India'; Annual
- B** 4 **Thyme** (*Thymus vulgaris*); Zones 5–9
- C** **Lettuce** (*Lactuca sativa*) such as 'Heatwave Blend'; Annual
- D** 1 **Sweet basil** (*Ocimum basilicum*) such as 'Pesto Party'; Annual
- E** 1 **Ornamental pepper** (*Capsicum annuum*) such as 'Chinese Five Color'; Annual
- F** 3 **Culinary sage** (*Salvia officinalis*); Zones 4–8

tip

THE BEST EDIBLES EMERGE FROM THE BEST SOIL. INCORPORATE A 2-INCH-THICK LAYER OF WELL-DECOMPOSED COMPOST INTO YOUR GARDEN AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY GROWING SEASON.

VEGGIE TOP 10

CHIVES

(*Allium schoenoprasum*) such as 'Dolores'; Zones 4–8. Long-lived perennial; edible flowers and leaves.

CUCUMBER

(*Cucumis sativus*) such as 'Bush Champion'; Annual. Grow bush-type cultivars in small spaces.

DILL

(*Anethum graveolens*) such as 'Mammoth'; Annual. Harvest ferny foliage and seeds for cooking.

EGGPLANT

(*Solanum melongena*) such as 'Black Beauty'; Annual. Plant transplants in late spring.

HEIRLOOM TOMATO

(*Lycopersicon esculentum*) such as 'Brandywine'; Annual. Hundreds of heirloom varieties with unique color, shape, and flavor.

KALE

(*Brassica oleracea*) such as 'Lacinato'; Annual. Harvest both tender young leaves and large mature foliage.

OKRA

(*Abelmoschus esculentus*) such as 'Clemson Spineless'; Annual. Plant in garden after last frost.

ONION

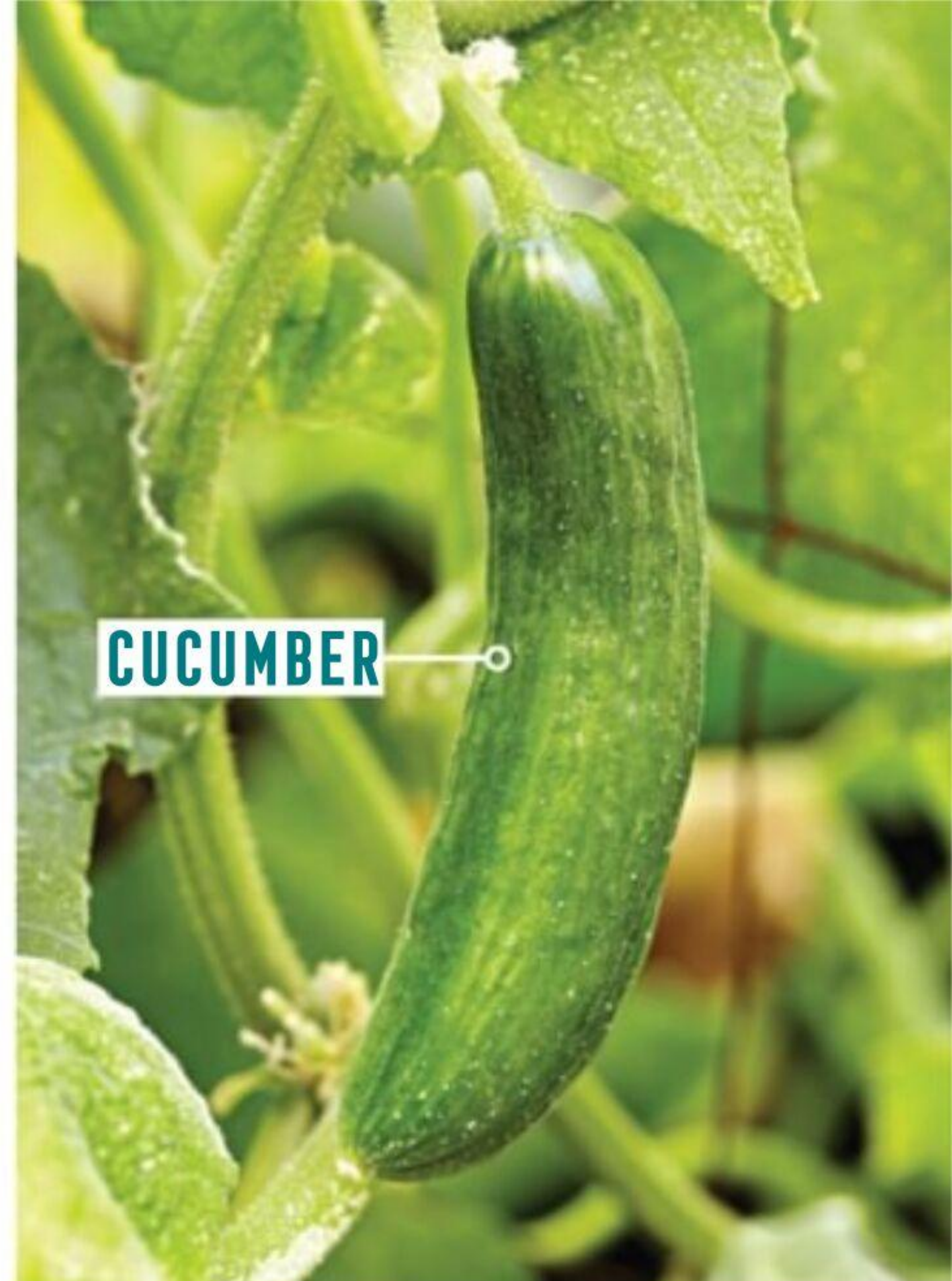
(*Allium* spp.) such as 'Red Creole'; Annual. Plant in early spring.

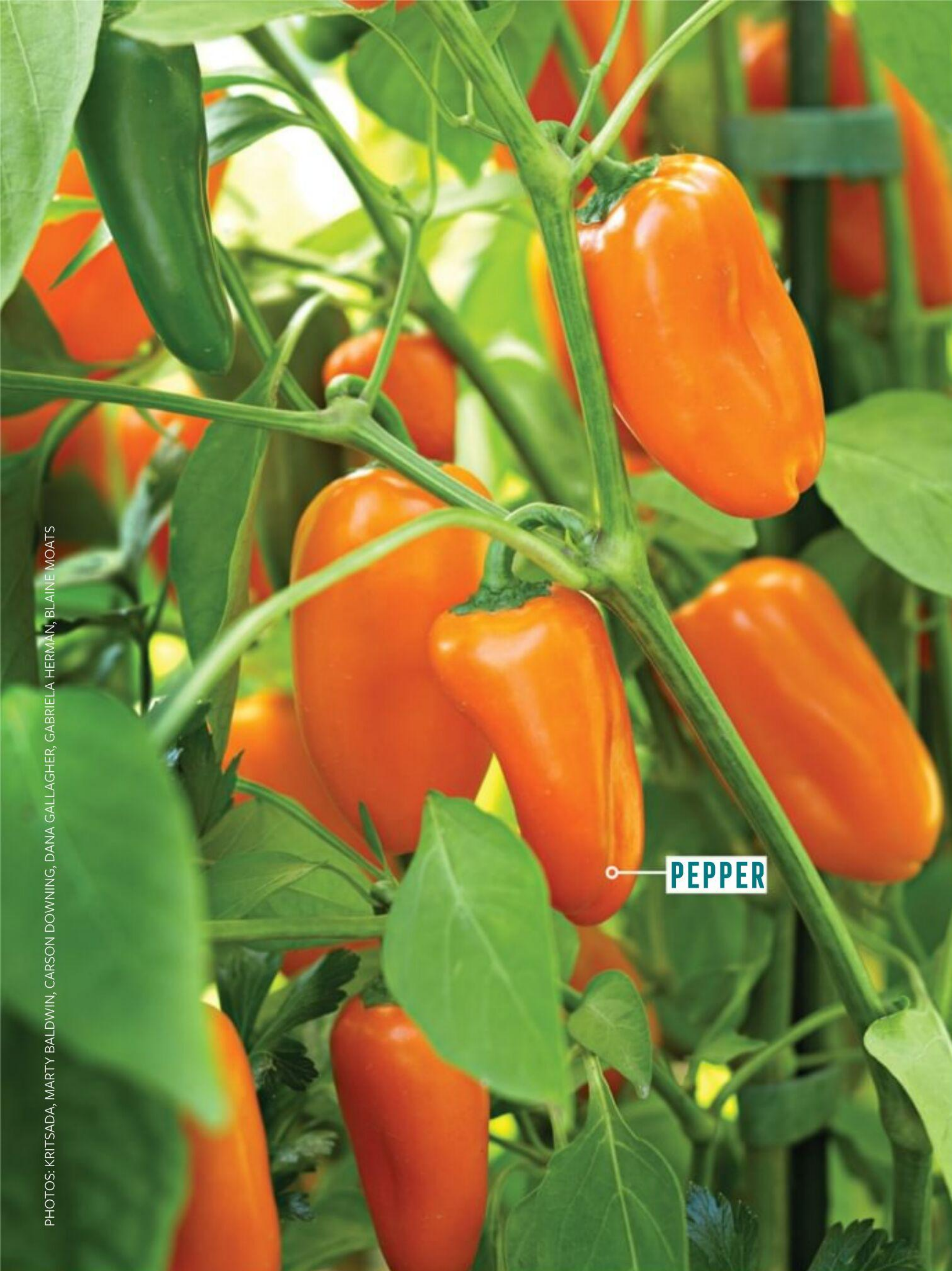
PEPPER

(*Capsicum annuum*) such as 'First Taste'; Annual. Thrives in long, hot summer weather.

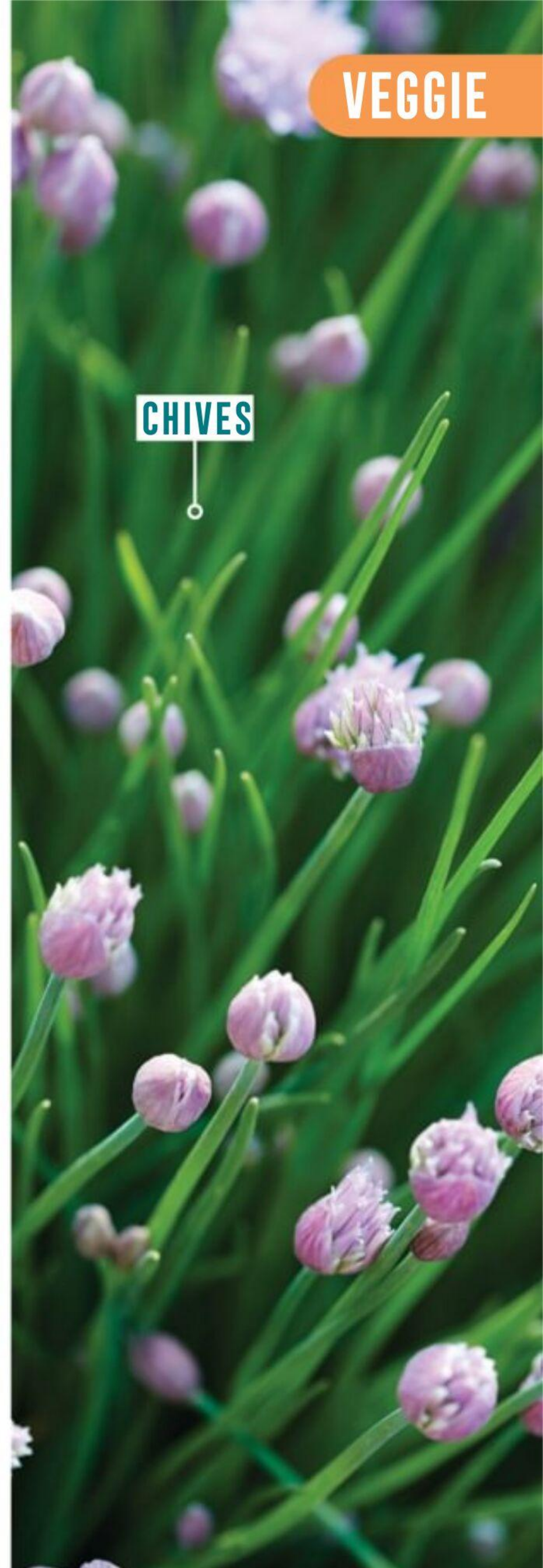
RADISH

(*Raphanus sativus*) such as 'Cherry Belle'; Annual. Ready for harvest in 20 to 30 days.





PEPPER



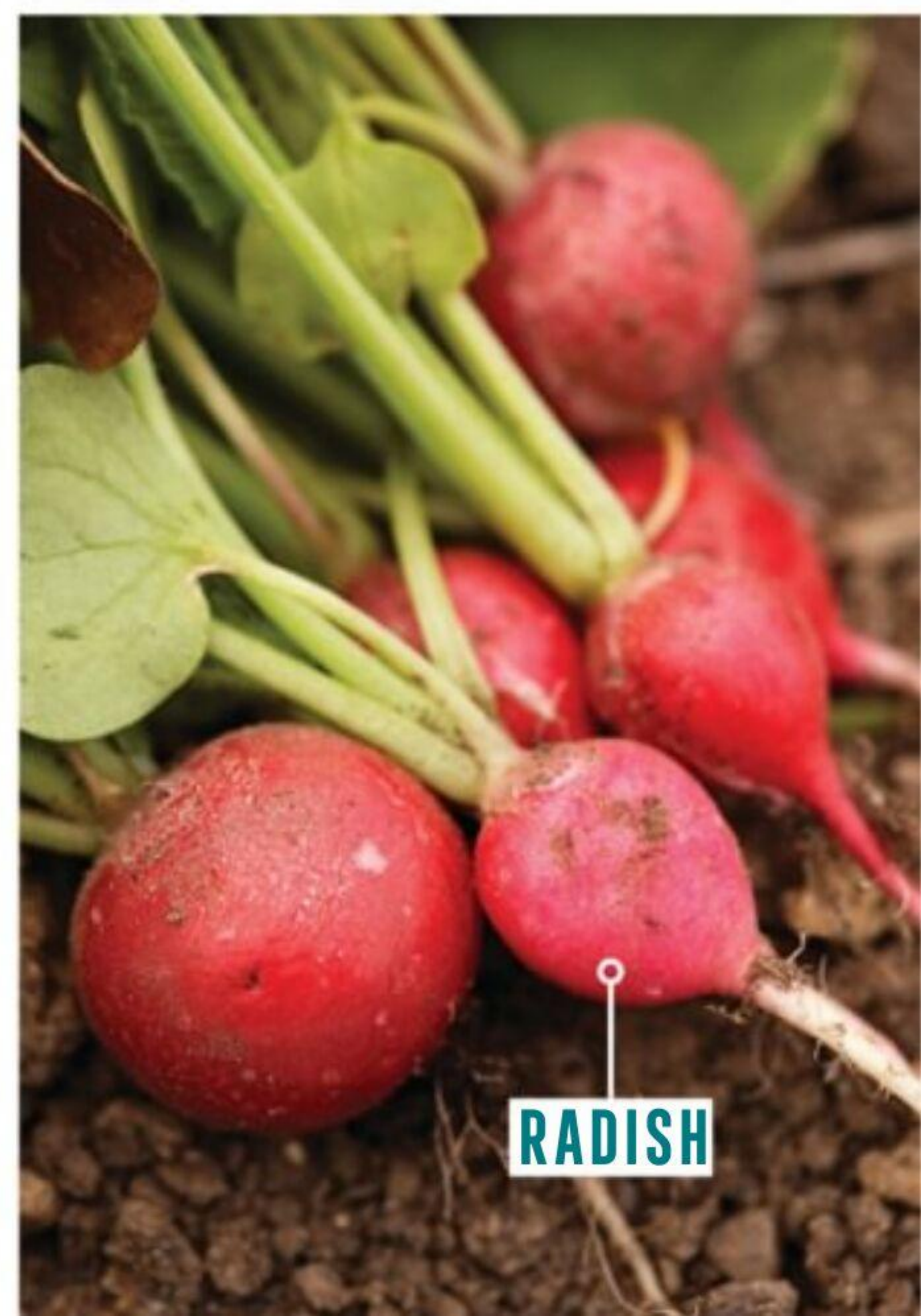
CHIVES



EGGPLANT



OKRA



RADISH



QUICK & EASY

SMART PLANT CHOICES WILL KEEP GARDEN MAINTENANCE TO A MINIMUM. THESE PLANS HELP YOU WORK LESS AND SAVOR THE BEAUTY OF YOUR SPACE.

Don't let limited time stop you from enjoying a garden right outside your door. Easy-care beds and borders begin with a thoughtful plan composed of plant communities that can go the distance. The hardworking plants featured here burst with interest in the form of blooms, foliage, and delightful twiggy structure 12 months a year. They also excel at caring for themselves by shrugging off drought, growing roots deep into the soil for water, and shedding spent flowers to bloom again a few weeks later.

Easy-care gardens are amplified by sound gardening practices. Add a layer of organic mulch in spring, commit to 10 minutes of weeding a week, and aim to water deeply during extreme drought to help plants care for themselves. Small habits like these are key to a quick-and-easy garden.

Aside from some TLC at planting time, the beds and borders in this section are the definition of low-maintenance. Most of your time will be spent not caring for them, but simply enjoying the color, texture, and wildlife they bring to your yard.

RIGHT: Shrubs, ornamental grasses, and small trees like those in this pocket garden are key components of an easy-care garden. Grasses and woody plants offer year-round structure and demand little maintenance. Add long-blooming perennials and annuals for pops of color.



PHOTO: LAURIE BLACK

EASY CARE

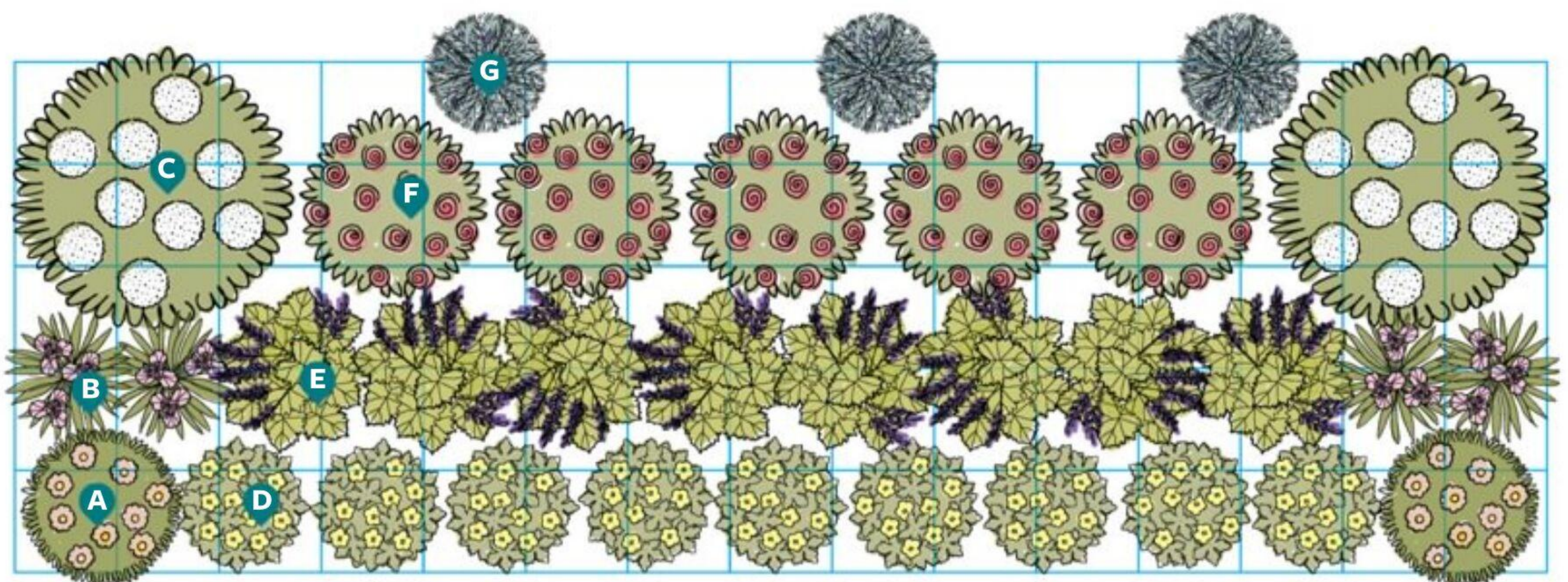


FLOWERING FOUNDATION

LAYERS OF EASY-CARE COLOR UNITE HOME AND NATURE IN THIS PLAN. ADD OR SUBTRACT DAYLILIES, SALVIAS, AND SHRUB ROSES TO FIT YOUR PLANTING SPACE.



PHOTOS: (LEFT) RICK TAYLOR, (OPPOSITE) CASEY SILLS



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

A 2 Miniature rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Itsy Bitsy Peach'; Zones 5–9

B 4 Asiatic lily (*Lilium* hybrid) such as 'Lollypop'; Zones 4–9

C 2 Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica*) such as 'Majestic Beauty'; Zones 8–10

D 9 Daylily (*Heemerocallis* hybrid) such as 'Stella de Oro'; Zones 3–10

E 8 Salvia (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Caradonna'; Zones 4–8

F 5 Shrub rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Betty Prior'; Zones 4–9

G 3 Clematis (*Clematis* hybrid) such as 'Jackmanii'; Zones 4–8

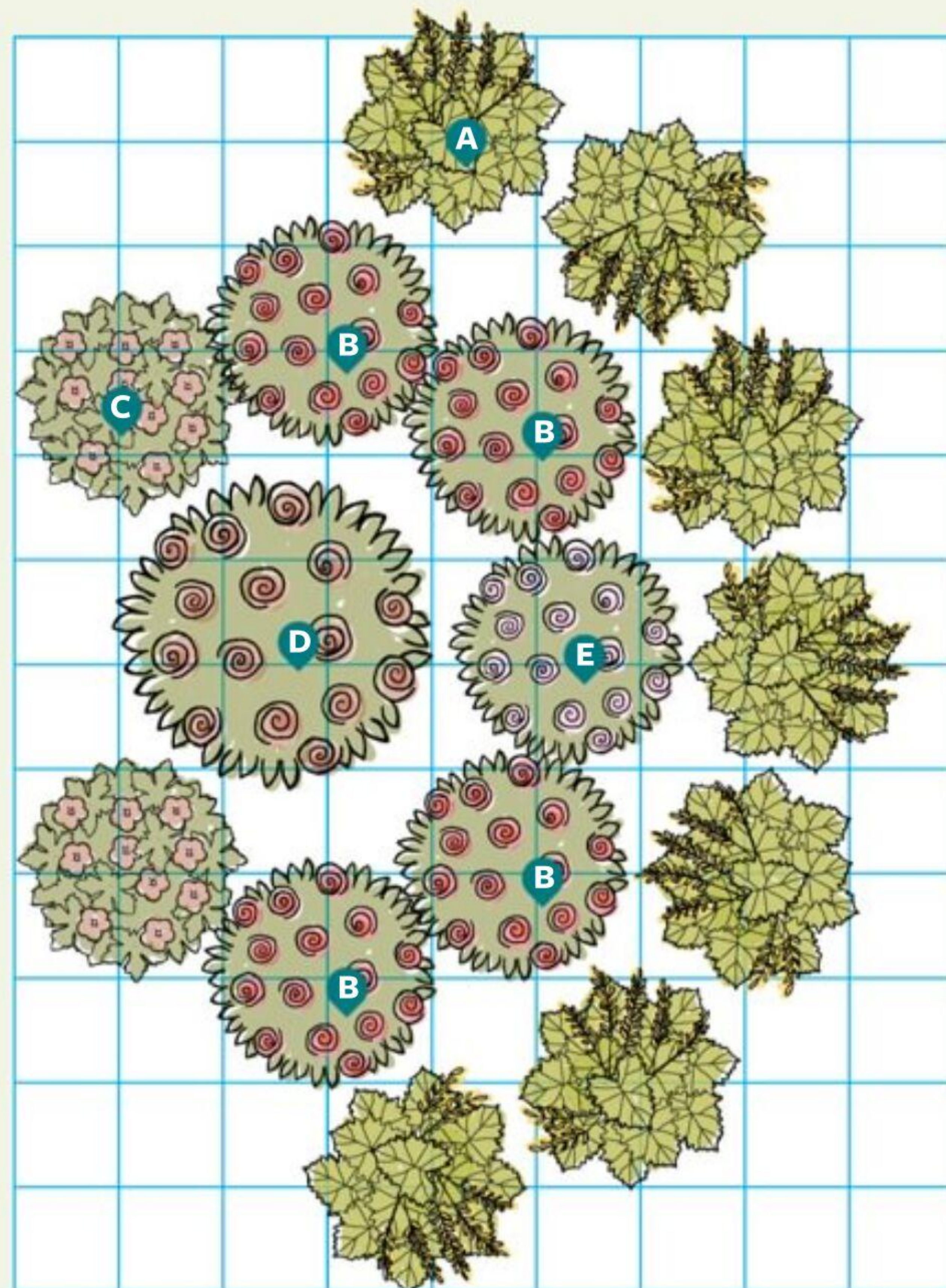
ROSES FOR EVERYONE

PERFECT FOR AN ENTRYWAY, THIS BED WILL THRIVE WITH AT LEAST 8 HOURS OF SUNLIGHT. SHRUB ROSES BLOOM FOR MONTHS WITH NO SPECIAL CARE.



plant list

- A** 7 Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) such as 'Thriller'; Zones 3–8
- B** 4 Red shrub rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Knock Out'; Zones 4–9
- C** 2 Climbing rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'New Dawn'; Zones 5–9
- D** 1 Deep pink shrub rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Eau De Parfum'; Zones 4–9
- E** 1 Light pink shrub rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Flower Carpet Appleblossom'; Zones 4–9



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

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PLANT A COMMUNITY

When plants are partnered based on similar light, water, and soil preferences, an easy-care garden community forms.

LIGHT

There are two broad categories based on the amount of light plants need: full sun or shade. Full sun plants need at least 6 hours of bright, direct light a day. Shade plants grow best when they receive 4 to 6 hours of light a day. Look for light requirements on plant tags.

WATER

Some plants are ultra-efficient when it comes to water, while others demand regular moisture. Climate and soil can impact water needs too. Prevent over- or under-watering by situating plants with similar needs together.

SOIL

Drainage and available nutrients are important factors to consider when choosing plants for a garden's soil conditions. Loose, sandy soil is usually quick to drain and low in nutrients. Dark, silty loam drains well and is high in nutrients. Heavy clay soil drains slowly and often lacks accessible nutrients.

tip

SPREAD A 2-INCH-THICK LAYER OF WELL-DECOMPOSED COMPOST OVER GARDEN BEDS ANNUALLY IN EARLY SPRING. THE COMPOST ADDS NUTRIENTS AND IMPROVES SOIL STRUCTURE.

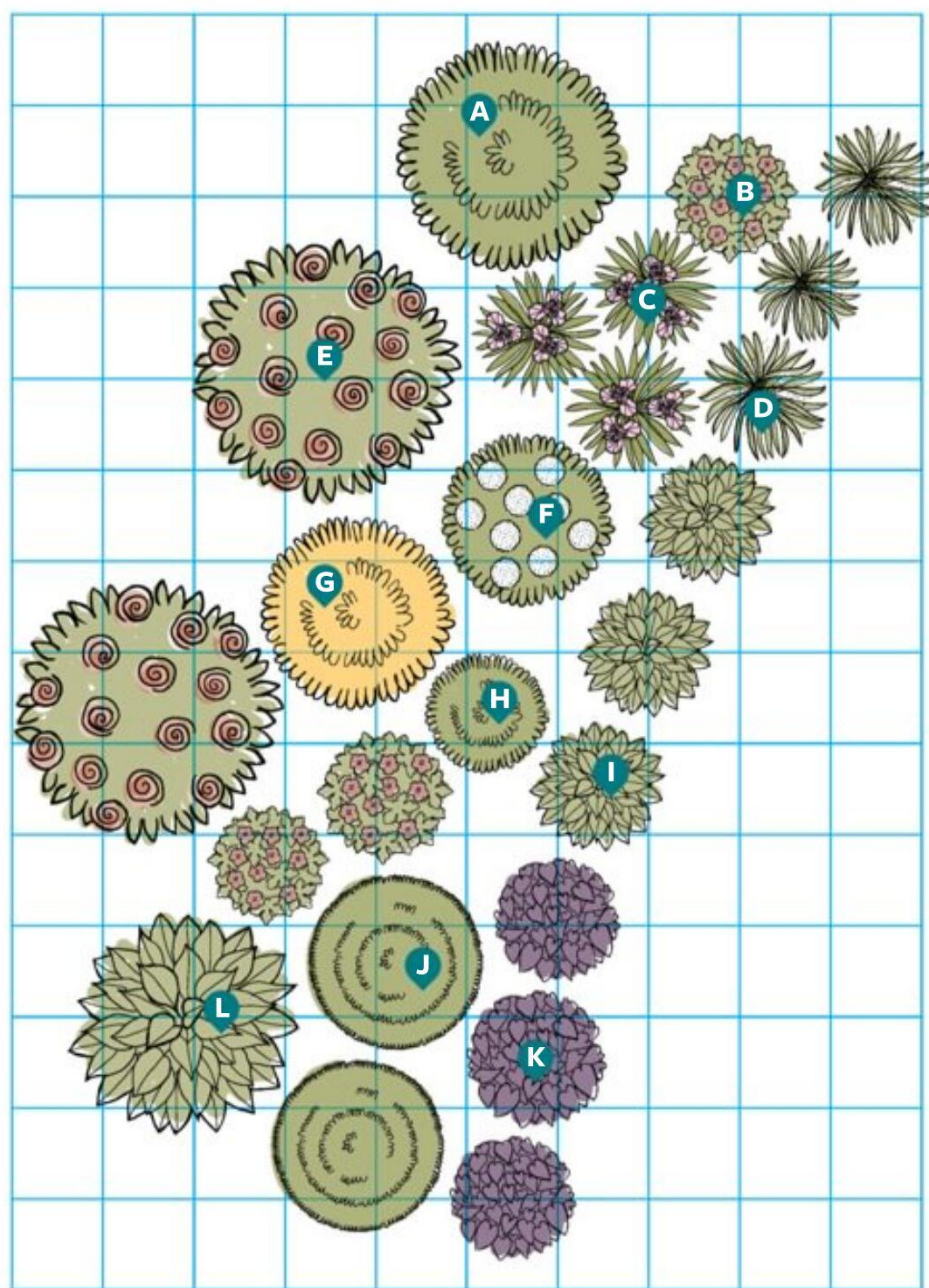
STELLAR SHRUBS

COMBINE SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS FOR YEAR-ROUND COLOR AND TEXTURE. PERENNIALS PROVIDE FLOWER POWER, WHILE SHRUBS ADD STRUCTURE TO THE BED.





PHOTO: BLAINE MOATS



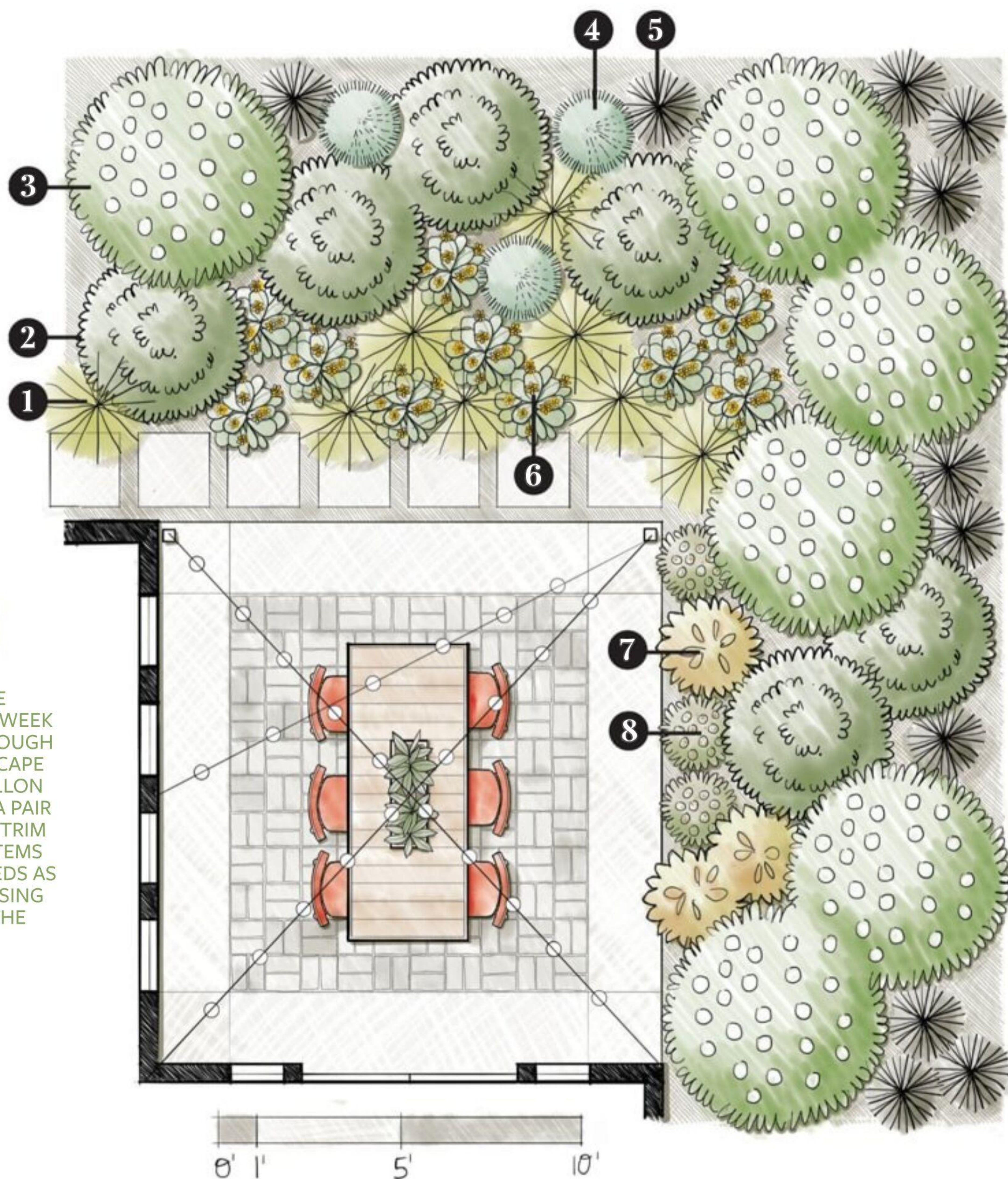
EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 1 Bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) such as 'Light-O-Day'; Zones 6–9
- B** 3 Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum* hybrid); Zones 4–9
- C** 3 Hellebore (*Helleborus orientalis*); Zones 4–9
- D** 3 Sedge (*Carex* hybrid) such as 'EverColor Everillo'; Zones 4–9
- E** 2 Shrub rose (*Rosa* hybrid) such as 'Oso Easy Peasy'; Zones 4–9
- F** 1 Bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) such as 'Endless Summer'; Zones 4–9
- G** 1 Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla* hybrid) such as 'Kodiak Fresh'; Zones 4–8
- H** 1 Japanese spirea (*Spiraea japonica*) such as 'Double Play Candy Corn'; Zones 4–8
- I** 3 Common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) such as 'Bowles'; Zones 4–8
- J** 2 Boxwood (*Buxus* hybrid) such as 'Green Gem'; Zones 4–9
- K** 3 Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*) such as 'Black Scallop'; Zones 4–9
- L** 1 Hosta (*Hosta* hybrid) such as 'El Nino'; Zones 3–8

A LIVING SCREEN

NORTH AMERICAN NATIVES COME TOGETHER TO FORM A DENSE MIXED BORDER THAT PROMISES PRIVACY AND YEAR-ROUND INTEREST.

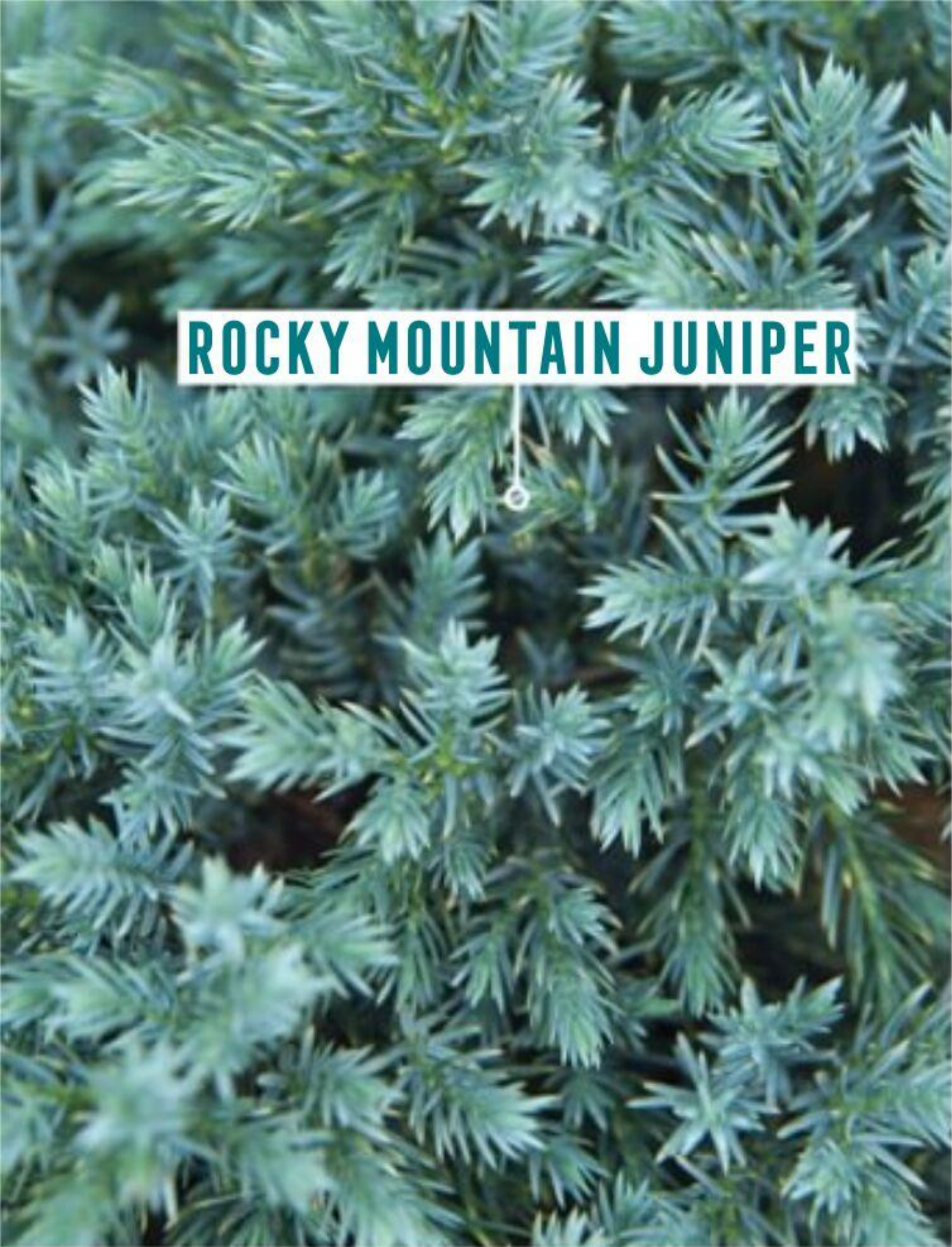


tip

SET ASIDE 10 MINUTES A WEEK TO WALK THROUGH YOUR LANDSCAPE WITH A 5-GALLON BUCKET AND A PAIR OF PRUNERS. TRIM WAYWARD STEMS AND PULL WEEDS AS YOU GO, TOSSING DEBRIS IN THE BUCKET.

plant list

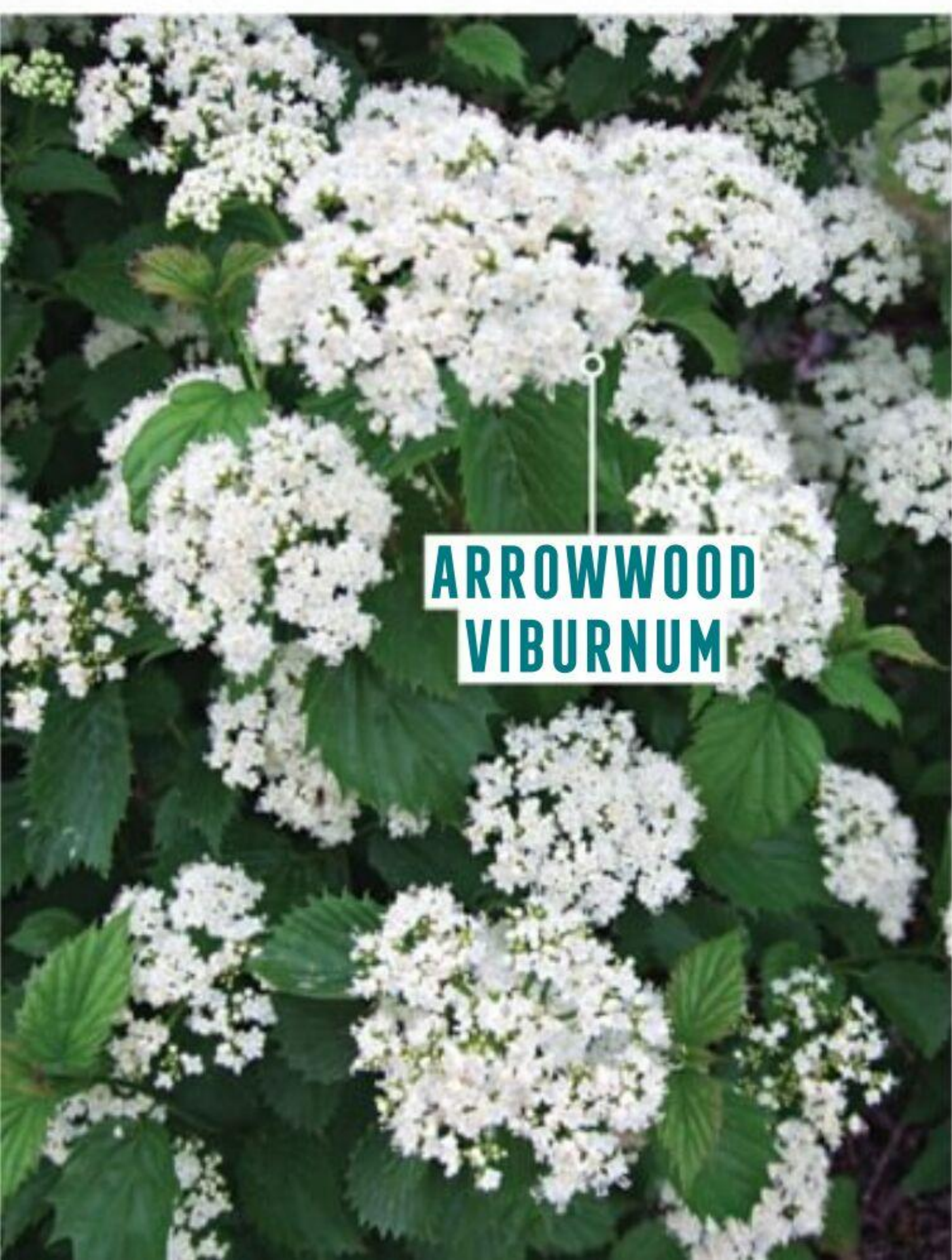
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>) such as 'Blonde Ambition'; Zones 3–10 | 4 Rocky Mountain juniper (<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>) such as 'Blue Arrow'; Zones 4–9 | 7 Bush honeysuckle (<i>Diervilla hybrid</i>) such as 'Kodiak Fresh'; Zones 4–8 |
| 2 Inkberry (<i>Ilex glabra</i>) such as 'Shamrock'; Zones 4–9 | 5 Big bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>) such as 'Blackhawks'; Zones 4–9 | 8 Black chokeberry (<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>) such as 'Low Scape Mound'; Zones 4–8 |
| 3 Arrowwood viburnum (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>) such as 'Sparkler'; Zones 2–8 | 6 Large coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia maxima</i>); Zones 4–9 | |



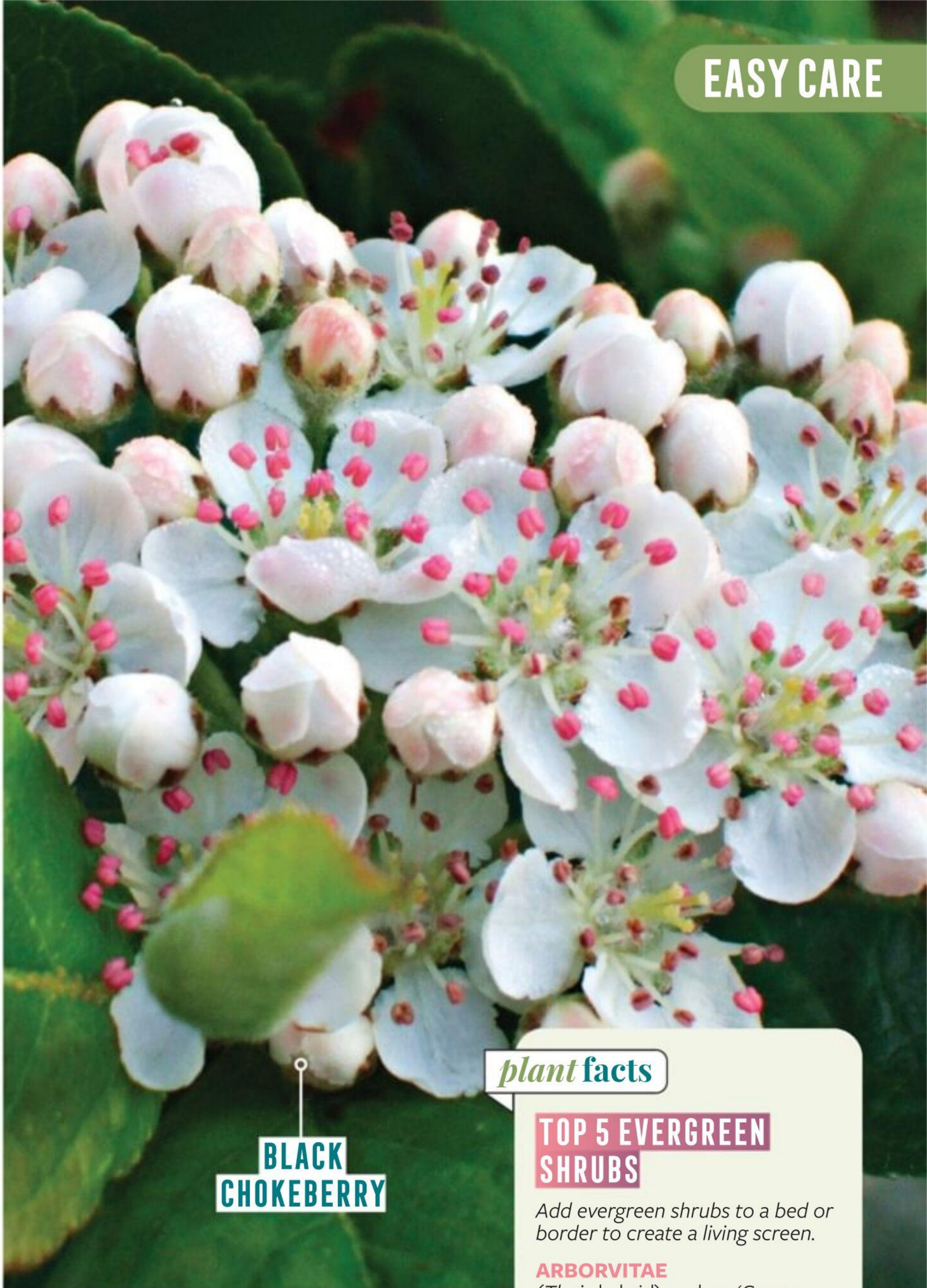
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER



LARGE
CONEFLOWER



ARROWWOOD
VIBURNUM



BLACK
CHOKEBERRY



BIG BLUESTEM

EASY CARE

plant facts

TOP 5 EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Add evergreen shrubs to a bed or border to create a living screen.

ARBORVITAE

(*Thuja* hybrid) such as 'Green Giant'; Zones 5–8. Tolerates some shade; frequently browsed by deer.

BOXWOOD

(*Buxus* hybrid) such as 'Green Tower'; Zones 4–9. Grows slowly and rarely requires pruning.

CHINESE JUNIPER

(*Juniperus chinensis*) such as 'Green Columnar'; Zones 4–9. Deer-resistant and drought-tolerant.

HOLLY

(*Ilex opaca*) such as 'Emerald Colonnade'; Zones 5–9. North American native and valuable wildlife plant.

INDIAN HAWTHORN

(*Rhaphiolepis indica*) such as 'Snow White'; Zones 8–10. Grows best in full sun and moist soil. Fragrant spring flowers are followed by blue-black fruit.

PERENNIAL MEDLEY

COMING BACK YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE PERENNIALS IN THIS MEANDERING BORDER GENERALLY CARE FOR THEMSELVES. TIDY UP THE GARDEN EACH SPRING, THEN SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW OF COLOR AND TEXTURE.



PHOTOS: (LEFT) MATTHEW BENSON, (OPPOSITE) JASON DONNELLY, CARSON DOWNING, JACOB FOX, BRIE GOLDMAN

know&grow

TINY BULBS

Standing just 4 inches tall and popping up in early spring before perennials emerge and shrubs leaf out, small bulbs are a welcome sight after a long winter. Plant them in fall and enjoy blooms for decades as they return again and again, slowly spreading over the years.



GRECIAN WINDFLOWER
Daisylike flowers all but hide the leaves.



GRAPE HYACINTH
The dozens of varieties are named for their dense clusters of flowers.



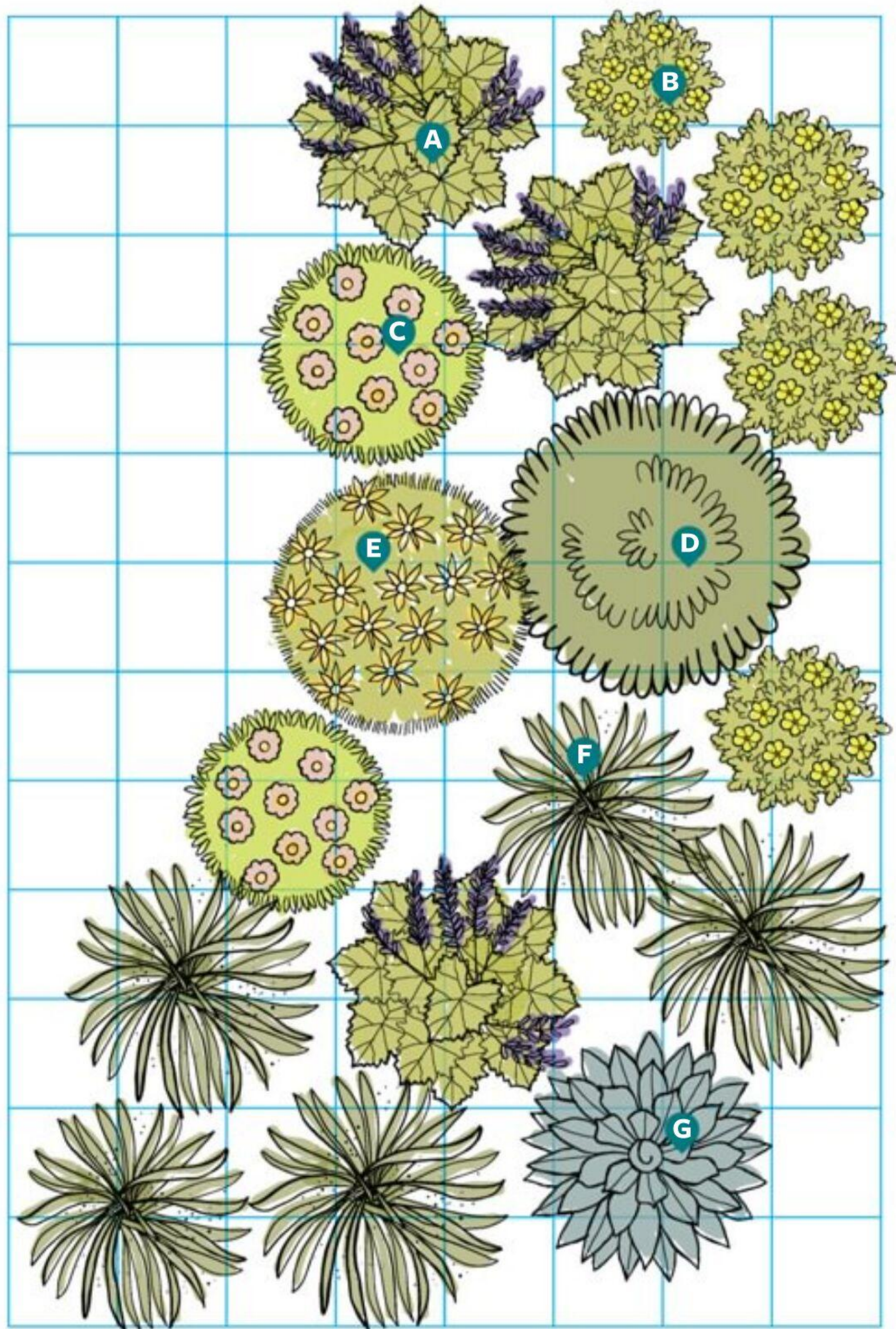
STRIPED SQUILL
Light blue coloring on ruffled flowers.



ROCK GARDEN IRIS
The littlest iris.



CROCUS
Bees love the silky, goblet-shape blooms.



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 3 **Salvia** (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Caradonna'; Zones 4–8
- B** 4 **Lady's mantle** (*Alchemilla mollis*) such as 'Thriller'; Zones 3–8
- C** 2 **Phlox** (*Phlox paniculata*) such as 'Sweet Summer Sensation'; Zones 4–8
- D** 1 **Japanese falsecypress** (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*) such as 'Golden Mop'; Zones 5–7
- E** 1 **Beardtongue** (*Penstemon digitalis*) such as 'Husker Red'; Zones 3–8
- F** 5 **Ornamental onion** (*Allium* spp.) such as 'Millenium'; Zones 5–8
- G** 1 **Lamb's-ears** (*Stachys byzantina*) such as 'Silver Carpet'; Zones 4–8

tip

DILIGENTLY ERADICATE WEEDS IN GARDEN BEDS IN THE FALL TO REDUCE THE WEED POPULATION NEXT SPRING. LEAVE PERENNIALS STANDING UNTIL SPRING TO SERVE AS FOOD AND SHELTER FOR WILDLIFE.

EASY CARE TOP 10

BOXWOOD

(*Buxus* hybrid) such as 'Green Gem'; Zones 5–8. Slow-growing evergreen shrub that tolerates some shade.

CATMINT

(*Nepeta racemosa*) such as 'Cat's Meow'; Zones 4–8. Drought tolerant and blooms for weeks.

CORALBELLS

(*Heuchera* hybrid) such as 'Georgia Peach'; Zones 4–9. Prized for foliage; grow in sun or shade.

DAYLILY

(*Hemerocallis* hybrid); Zones 3–10. Grasslike foliage is an asset in the garden from spring through fall.

GARDEN PHLOX

(*Phlox paniculata*) such as 'Luminary Pink Lightning'; Zones 4–8. Blooms in shades of red, pink, and white in midsummer.

HYDRANGEA

(*Hydrangea* spp.) such as 'Annabelle'; Zones 3–8. Summer-blooming shrub available in many sizes and flower colors.

LADY'S MANTLE

(*Alchemilla mollis*) such as 'Thriller'; Zones 3–8. Velvety, light green leaves are complemented by chartreuse flowers.

LAMB'S-EARS

(*Stachys byzantina*) such as 'Fuzzy Wuzzy'; Zones 4–8. Heat and drought tolerant and deer resistant.

SWITCH GRASS

(*Panicum virgatum*) such as 'Prairie Sky'; Zones 5–9. Grows 4 to 6 feet tall.

WEIGELA

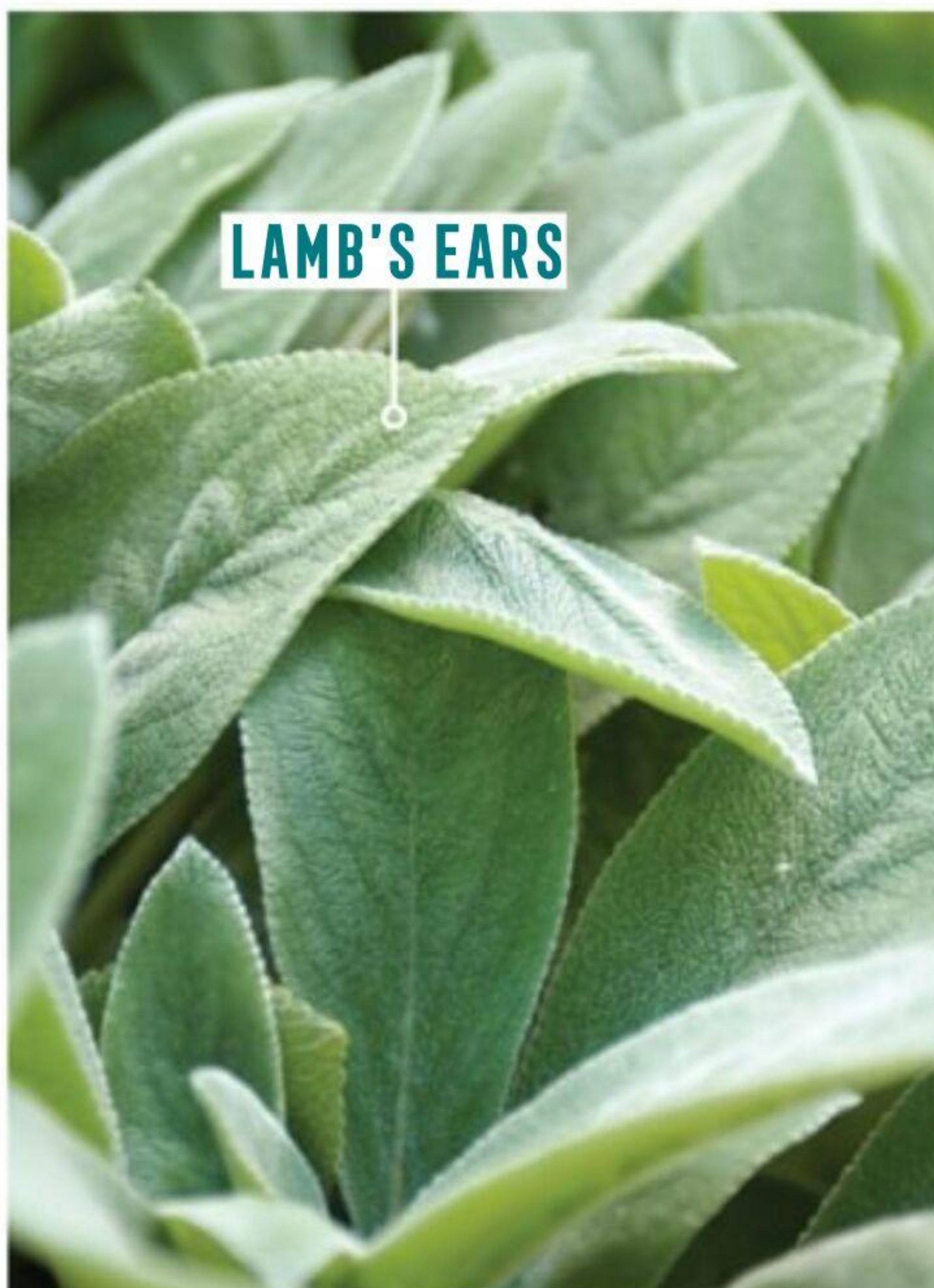
(*Weigela florida*) such as 'Fine Wine'; Zones 4–8. Spring- and summer-blooming shrub that is 1 to 3 feet tall and wide.



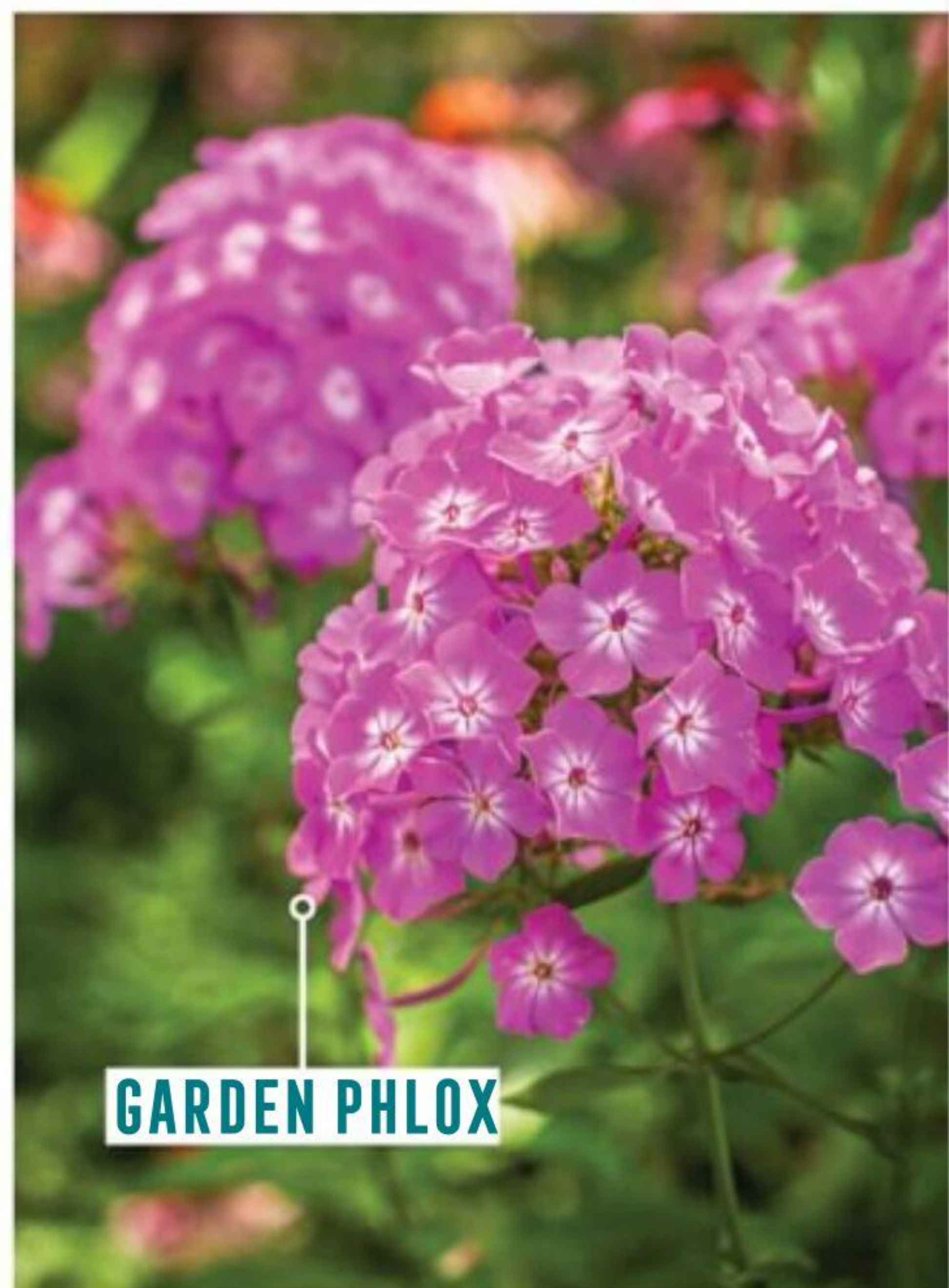
WEIGELA



LADY'S MANTLE



LAMB'S EARS

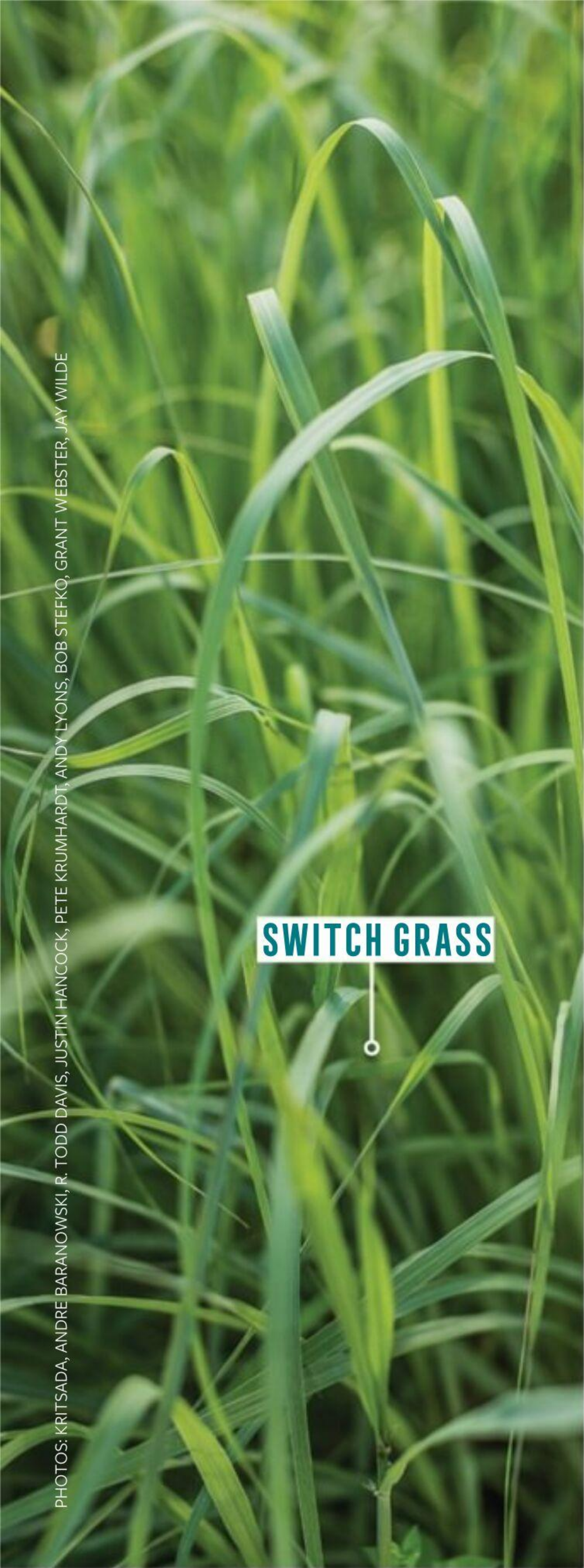


GARDEN PHLOX



CORALBELLS

PHOTOS: KRITSADA, ANDRE BARANOWSKI, R. TODD DAVIS, JUSTIN HANCOCK, PETE KRUMHARDT, ANDY LYONS, BOB STEFKO, GRANT WEBSTER, JAY WILDE



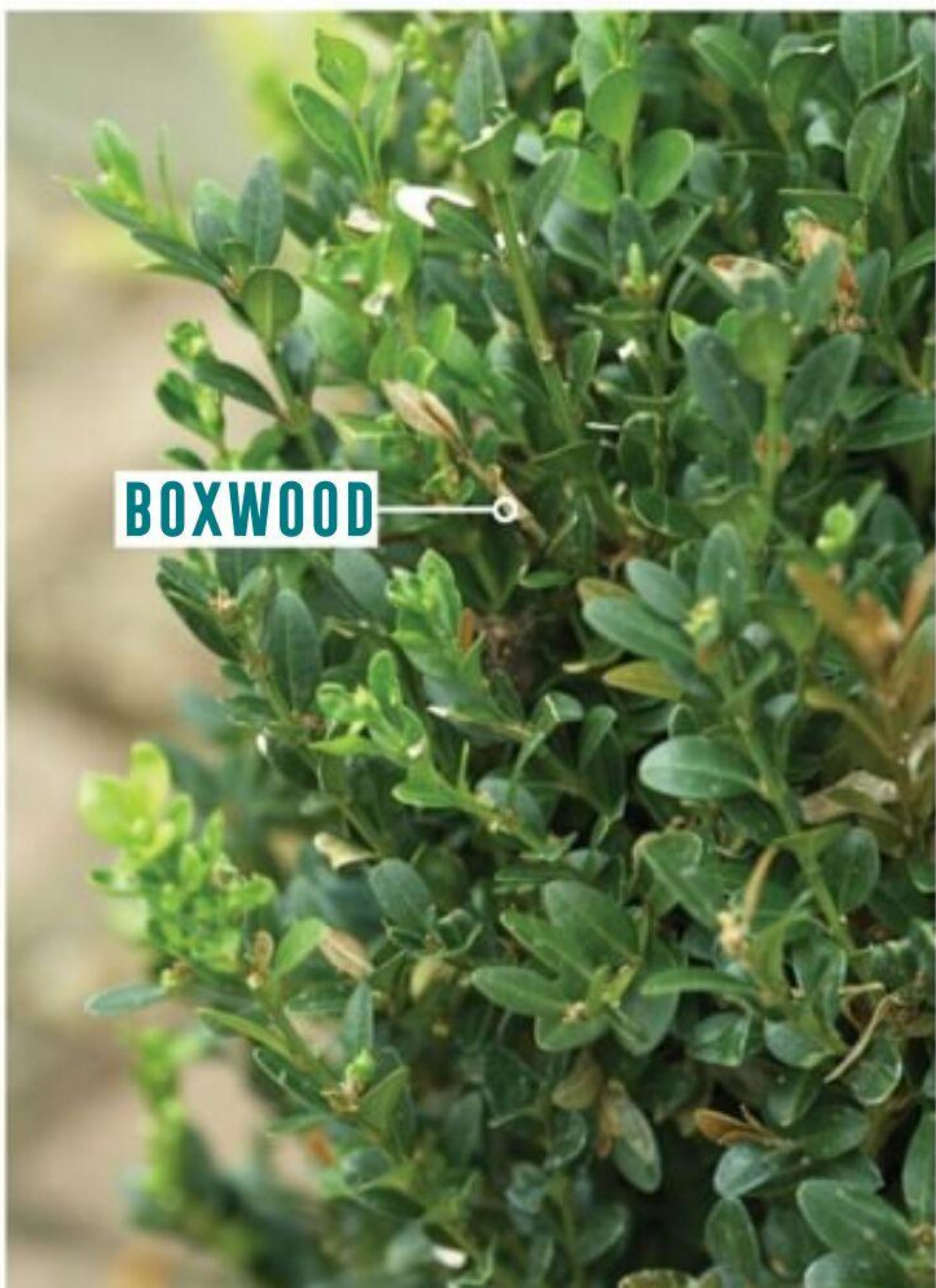
SWITCH GRASS



CATMINT



DAYLILY



BOXWOOD



HYDRANGEA

EASY CARE

wet soil SOLUTIONS

DON'T LET SOGGY SOIL THWART
YOUR DREAM OF A GARDEN. THE
PLANTS IN THESE PLANS TOLERATE
WET SOIL WITH EASE.

Too much moisture has caused the demise of many a planting bed. Whether you are battling a boggy patch of soil or a landscape blanketed with slow-draining clay, you can still cultivate a garden—if you choose the right plants. There are annuals, perennials, shrubs, and even trees that find these growing conditions friendly. Moisture-loving plants are unique in that they thrive in soil that has very little space for oxygen to penetrate. These plants have tiny roots that take advantage of every underground air pocket.

Plant nutrients, while often abundant in wet soils, are difficult for roots to access because they are held so tightly by the highly charged soil. Moisture-loving plants embrace limited nutrient availability, regularly flowering through long wet spells—just one example of the resilience of plants.

When gardening in wet soil, be prepared for a bit of trial and error. Some wet soil plants that seem to be a great fit will languish. Begin by planting a small bed or border and assessing which plants thrive in the specific growing conditions of your plot.

RIGHT: Feathery pink astilbe holds court around this birdbath. Thriving in wet soil, astilbe grows best in part shade or full shade. The long-lived and easy-care perennial can be divided every few years. Share propagations with friends and neighbors who are gardening in wet soil.



PHOTO: MARTY BALDWIN



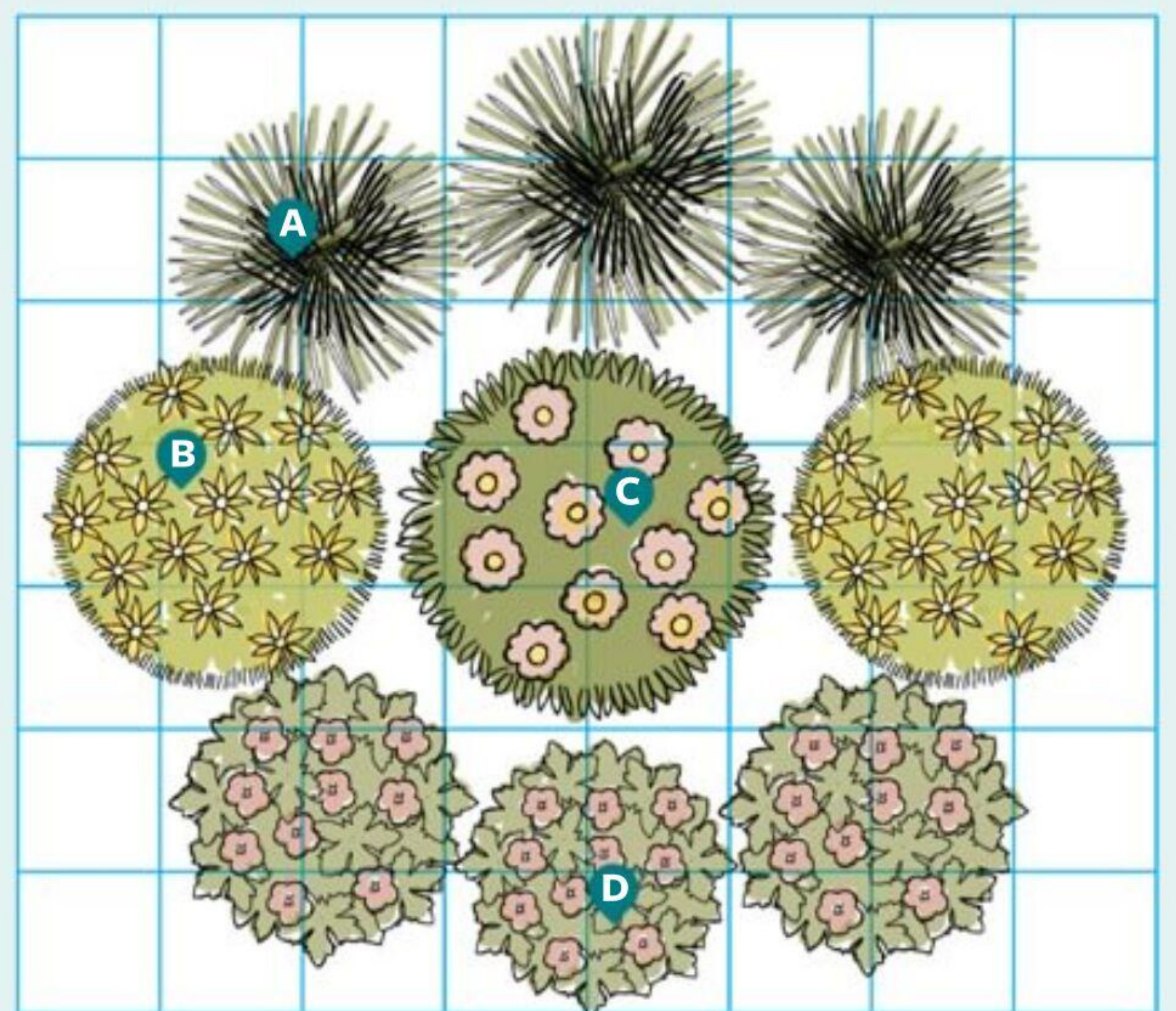
CALLING ALL POLLINATORS

RICH IN POLLEN AND NECTAR, THE NATIVE PLANTS FILLING THIS FULL SUN, WET SOIL GARDEN WILL LURE HUMMINGBIRDS AND BEES.



plant list

- A** 3 Feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora*) such as 'Karl Foerster'; Zones 5–9
- B** 2 Queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*); Zones 3–8
- C** 1 Joe pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.) such as 'Gateway'; Zones 4–8
- D** 3 Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) such as 'Pardon My Rose'; Zones 4–9



EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant facts

FERNS

Wet, loose soil that is rich in organic matter and blanketed by shade is just right for ferns. There are many sizes and colors of these easy-to-grow, moisture-loving perennials. A few of our favorites include Japanese painted fern, maidenhair fern, and autumn fern.

GO BIG

Royal and ostrich ferns can stand 6 feet tall or more. Add them to the back of a border, or employ them as a living wall.

PARTNER FOR CONTRAST

Situate ferns alongside plants with large, sturdy leaves such as hostas, hellebores, and coralbells for pleasing contrast.

BE READY FOR SPREAD

Ferns spread by underground stems or spores. Some types expand more than others.

CONSISTENT MOISTURE IS ESSENTIAL

Water ferns as needed so they receive at least 1 inch of water per week.

tip

SITES THAT ARE NORMALLY WET CAN DRY OUT, WHICH WILL STRESS THE MOISTURE-LOVING PLANTS GROWING THERE. WATER AS NEEDED.

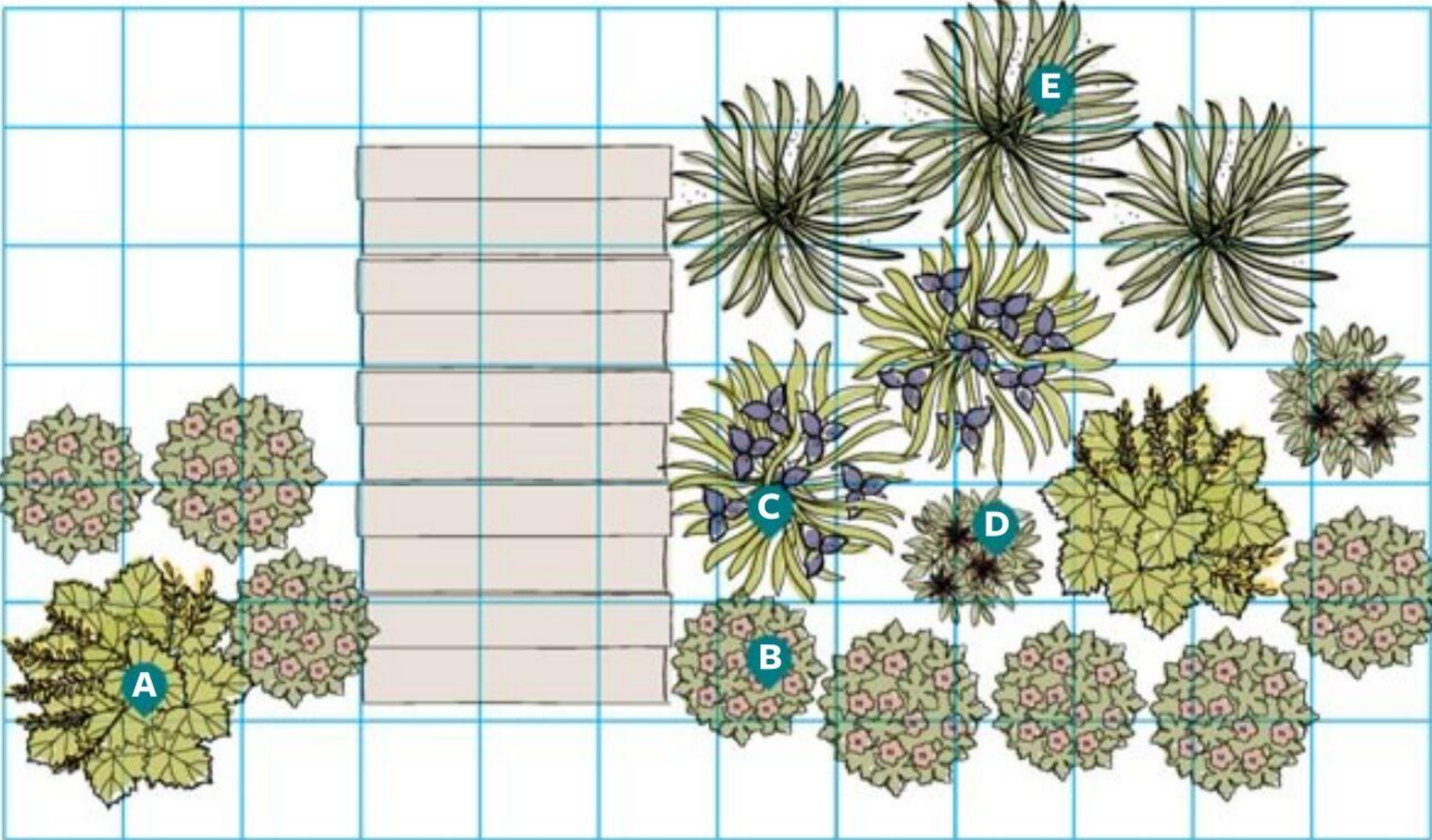


BRING ON THE RAIN

THE TOUGH YET BEAUTIFUL PLANTS IN THIS SHADE-FRIENDLY BED TOLERATE SOIL THAT IS MOIST TO WET FOR DAYS AT A TIME AFTER RAIN.



PHOTOS: (OPPOSITE TOP) MATTHEW BENSON, (OPPOSITE BOTTOM) KINDRA CLINEFF, (RIGHT) KINDRA CLINEFF



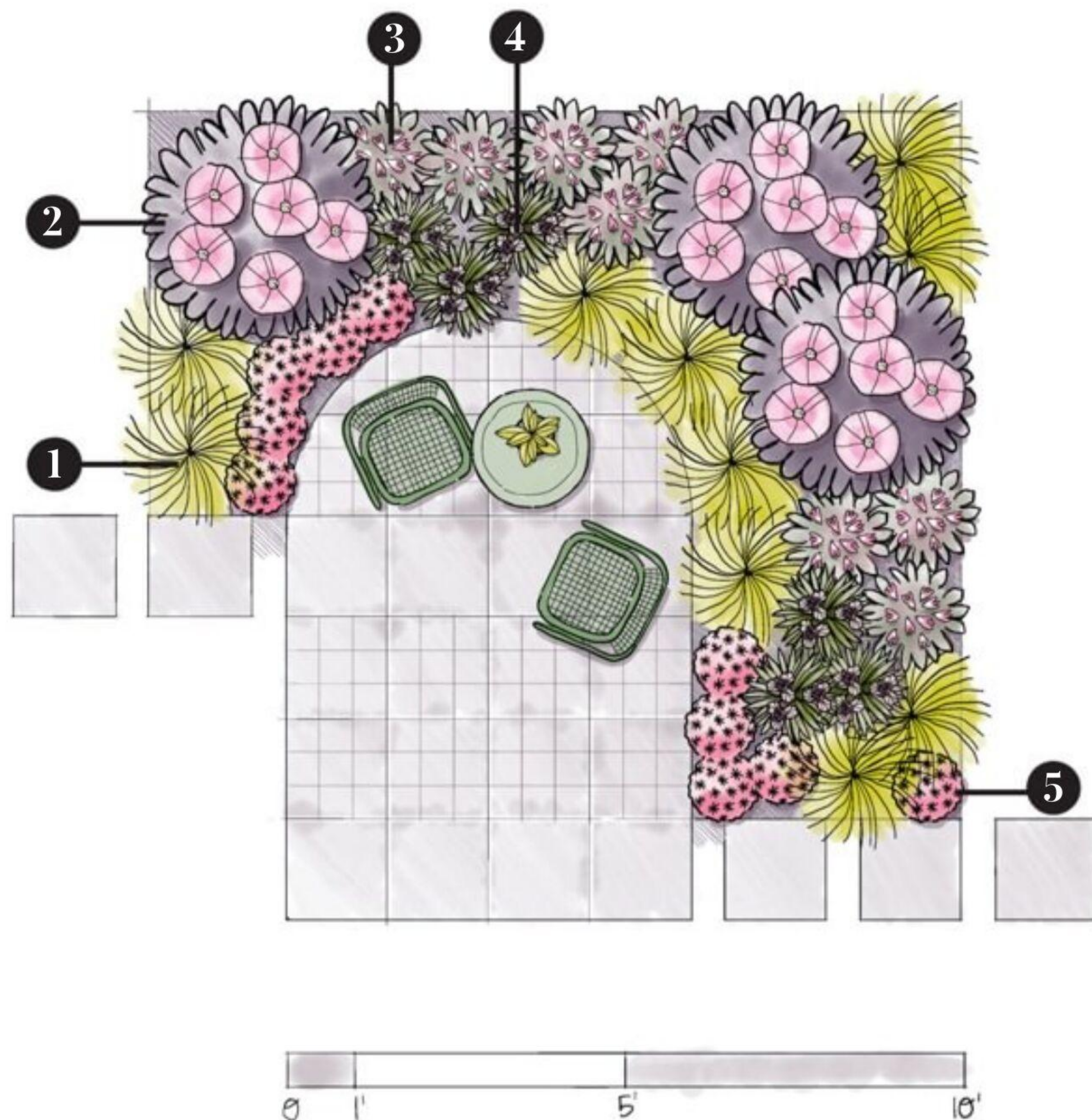
EACH SQUARE = 1 FOOT

plant list

- A** 2 Leopard plant (*Ligularia dentata*) such as 'The Rocket'; Zones 3–8
- B** 8 Hardy primrose (*Primula kisoana*); Zones 4–8
- C** 2 Siberian iris (*Iris* hybrid) such as 'Caesar's Brother'; Zones 3–8
- D** 2 Turk's cap lily (*Lilium superbum*); Zones 5–8
- E** 3 Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) such as 'The Blues'; Zones 3–9

WET SOIL POCKET

TRANSFORM A SLOW-DRAINING PATCH OF SOIL INTO A LONG-BLOOMING GARDEN WITH THIS PLAN. COUNT ON THE TURTLEHEAD AND ROSE MALLOW TO SEND UP NEW FLOWERS UNTIL A HARD FROST.



plant list

- 1 Bowles' golden sedge** (*Carex elata*) such as 'Aurea'; Zones 5–9
- 2 Swamp rose mallow** (*Hibiscus* hybrid) such as 'Summerific Edge of Night'; Zones 4–9
- 3 Pink turtlehead** (*Chelone lyonii*) such as 'Hot Lips'; Zones 3–8
- 4 Japanese water iris** (*Iris ensata*) such as 'Pinkerton'; Zones 4–9
- 5 Bee balm** (*Monarda didyma*) such as 'Pardon Me Pink'; Zones 4–9

plant facts

NATIVE SHRUBS FOR WET SOIL

Count on these native shrubs to provide year-round structure in a bed or border while beckoning nearby wildlife. Plant in groups of three or five to create a living screen at the back of a border.

Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*); Zones 3–7. Low-growing, spreading shrub with attractive fall color. Grows in sun or shade.

Dwarf fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*); Zones 5–8. A low-maintenance shrub with spring flowers and bright orange fall foliage. Grows in sun or shade.

Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*); Zones 5–8. Spring-flowering shrub with clusters of yellow-white flowers. Stands 6 to 10 feet tall and wide with a round growth habit. Grows in sun or shade.

Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*); Zones 5–9. Small to medium shrub with showy, fragrant white flowers in spring and brilliant red, orange, and yellow foliage in autumn. Grows in sun.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*); Zones 3–9. A deciduous holly with deep green leaves. Plant a male cultivar and a female cultivar to enjoy abundant bright red berries. Grows in sun.

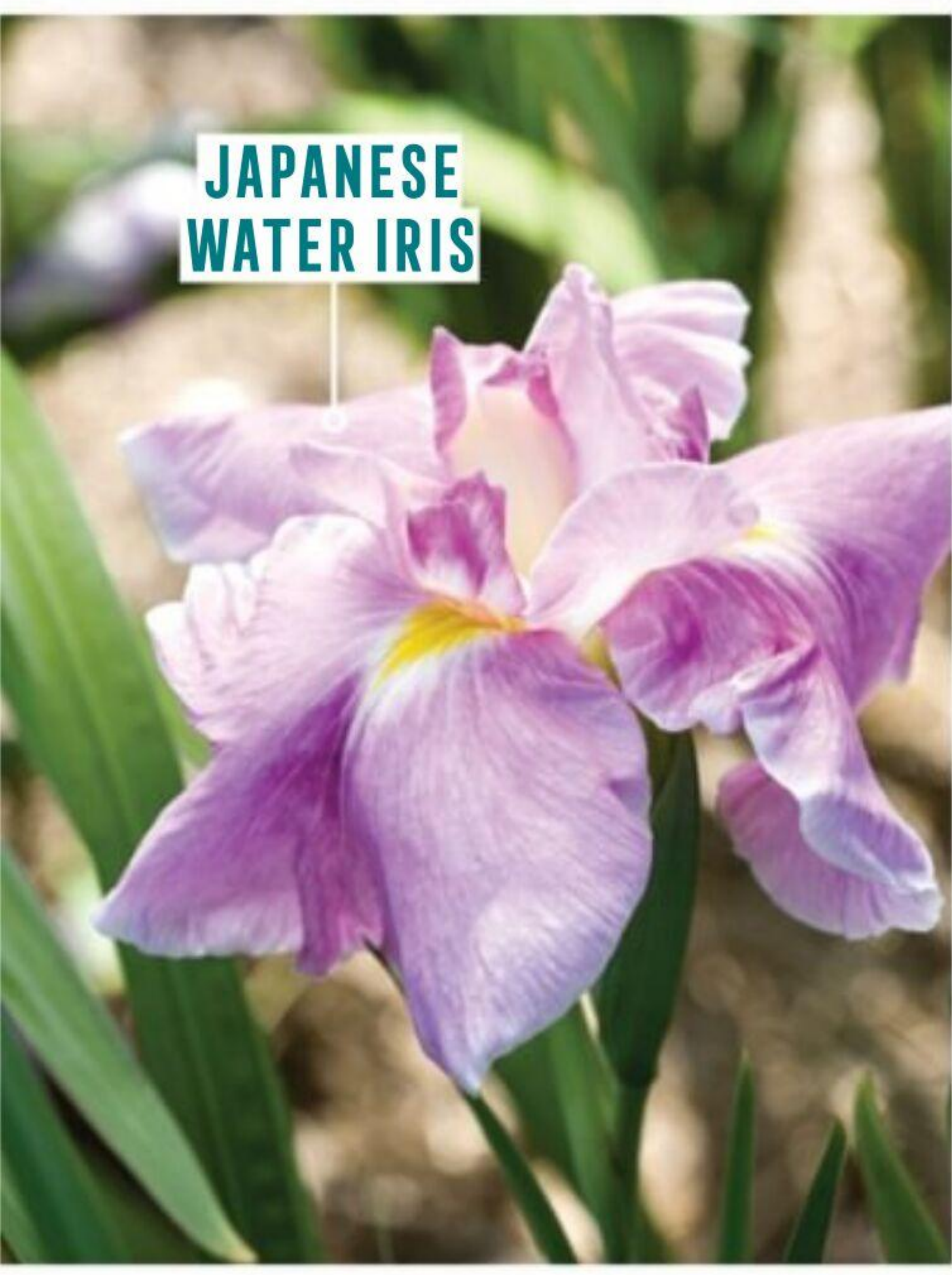
tip

AVOID WALKING ON WET SOIL AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. FOOT TRAFFIC COMPACTS MOIST SOIL, ELIMINATING THE ALREADY FEW CHANNELS FOR OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS TO TRAVEL.

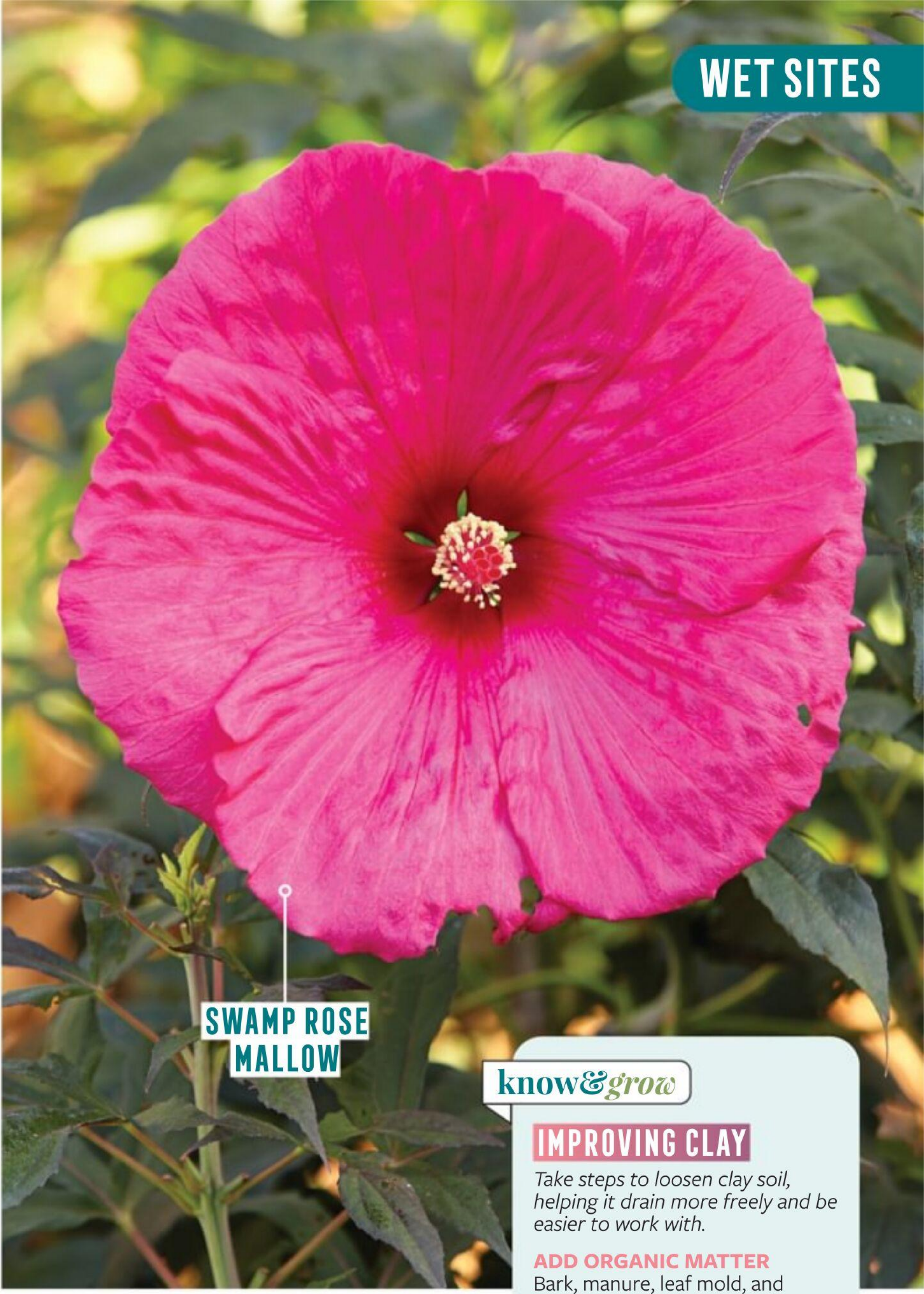
WET SITES



SEDGE



JAPANESE
WATER IRIS



SWAMP ROSE
MALLOW

know&grow

IMPROVING CLAY

Take steps to loosen clay soil, helping it drain more freely and be easier to work with.

ADD ORGANIC MATTER

Bark, manure, leaf mold, and compost applied to the soil surface will help break up clay in time. Apply a 2- to 3-inch layer.

APPLY IN SPRING AND FALL

Improving clay soil is a lifetime commitment. For best results, apply organic matter twice a year.

LAYERS ARE BEST

Microorganisms will mix the layered organic matter into the clay, creating air and water channels in the process.

DO NOT ROTOTILL

Resist the urge to use a rototiller to quickly mix organic matter into the soil. Tilling will form rock-hard soil clods.

NO SAND

Sand and clay combine to form a material even more difficult to manage than clay. Do not mix sand into clay. Add layers of organic matter instead.



BEE BALM



TURTLEHEAD

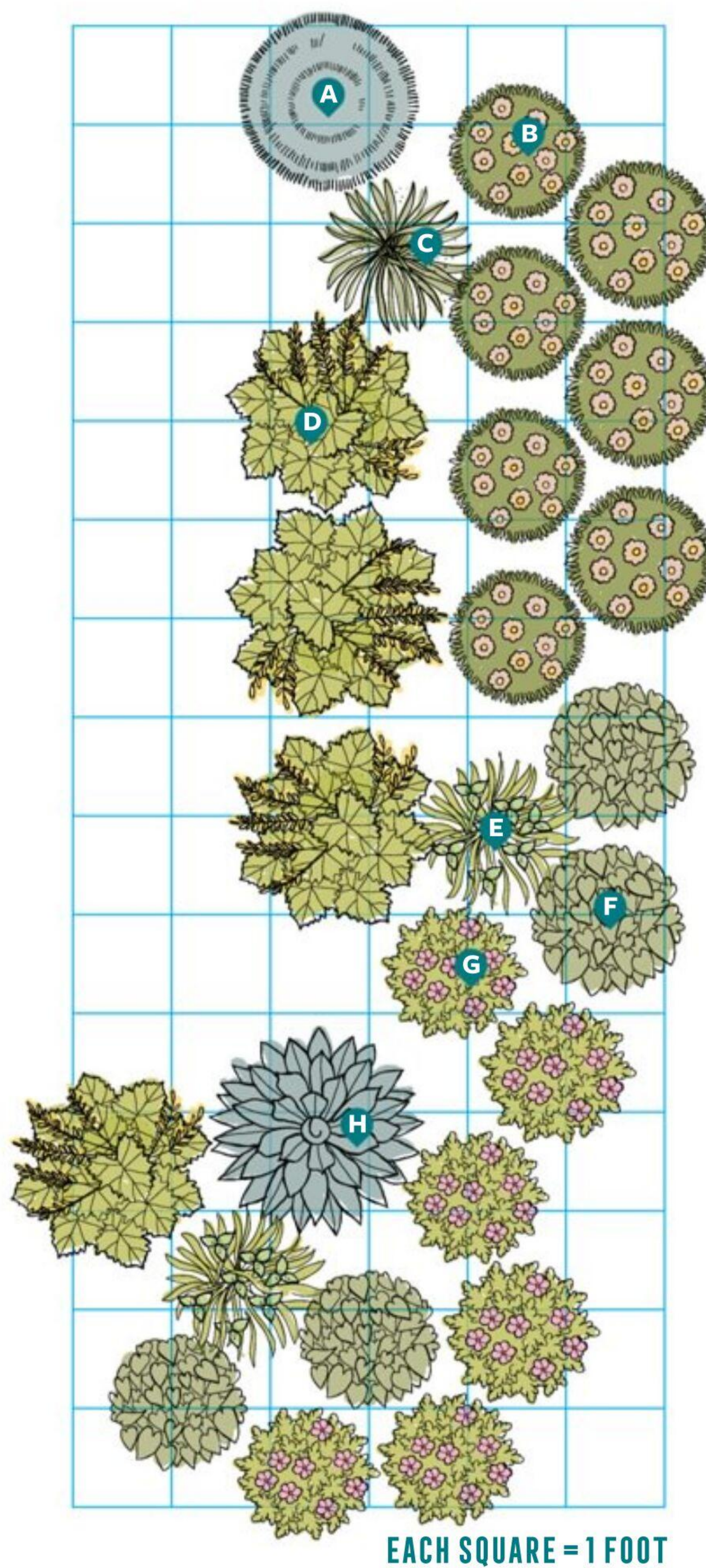
TOUCH OF THE TROPICS

BOLD FOLIAGE PATTERNS AND SHAPES BRING ENERGY TO THIS EASY-CARE BORDER THAT THRIVES IN HEAT, HUMIDITY, AND MOIST SOIL.





PHOTO: BRIE GOLDMAN



plant list

- A** 1 Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) such as 'Wichita Blue'; Zones 3–7
- B** 7 Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*) such as 'State Fair'; Annual
- C** 1 Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) such as 'Picta'; Zones 4–9
- D** 4 Canna (*Canna* spp.) such as 'Wyoming'; Zones 7–10
- E** 2 Umbrella plant (*Cyperus involucratus*) such as 'King Tut'; Annual
- F** 4 Coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*); Annual
- G** 6 Verbena (*Verbena* hybrid) such as 'Imagination'; Annual
- H** 1 Elephant ear (*Colocasia esculenta*); Annual

WET SITES TOP 10

BLEEDING HEART

(*Dicentra* spp.) such as 'Burning Hearts'; Zones 5–9. Spring-flowering perennial with flowers that resemble a heart. Grows best in part shade.

CARDINAL FLOWER

(*Lobelia cardinalis*); Zones 3–9. Grows in full sun or part shade. Moist soil is essential.

KALE

(*Brassica oleracea*); Annual. Ornamental and edible varieties with long-lasting foliage. Plant in part shade.

MAIDENHAIR FERN

(*Adiantum pedatum*); Zones 3–8. North American native fern for shade; grows 1 to 3 feet tall.

NASTURTIUM

(*Tropaeolum majus*); Annual. Plant from seed in spring. Low-growing groundcover.

QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE

(*Filipendula rubra*); Zones 3–8. Native. Easy to grow in sun or shade. Will spread to form a colony.

RED CHOKEBERRY

(*Aronia arbutifolia*) such as 'Brilliant Red'; Zones 4–9. North American native shrub with spring flowers and edible berries.

SIBERIAN IRIS

(*Iris* hybrid); Zones 3–8. Blooms in spring and grows 2 to 3 feet tall.

SPIDER FLOWER

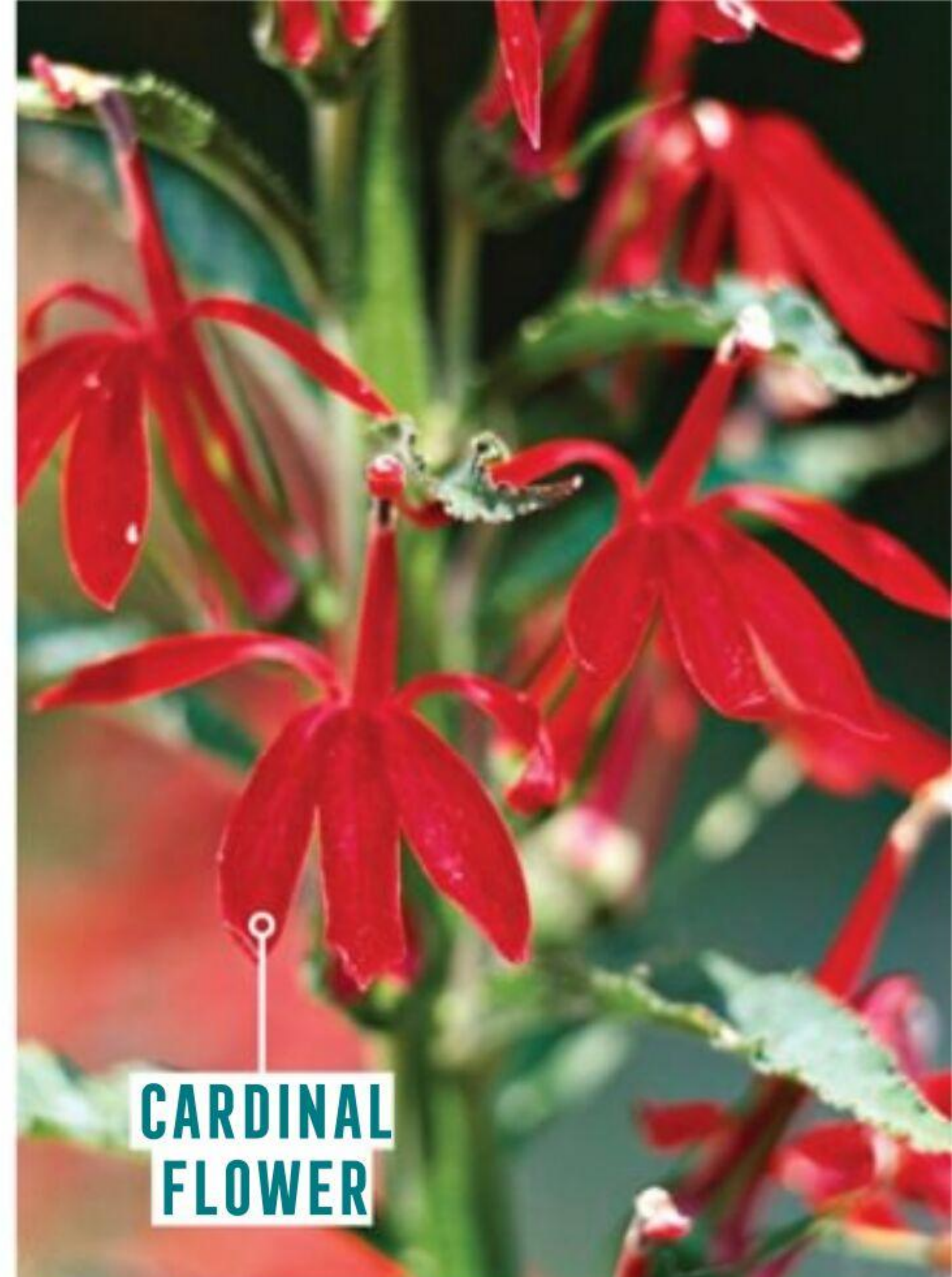
(*Cleome* hybrid); Annual. Grow from seed planted in the garden; pollinator favorite.

SWAMP MILKWEED

(*Asclepias incarnata*); Zones 3–6. North American native perennial. Food source for hummingbirds and butterflies.



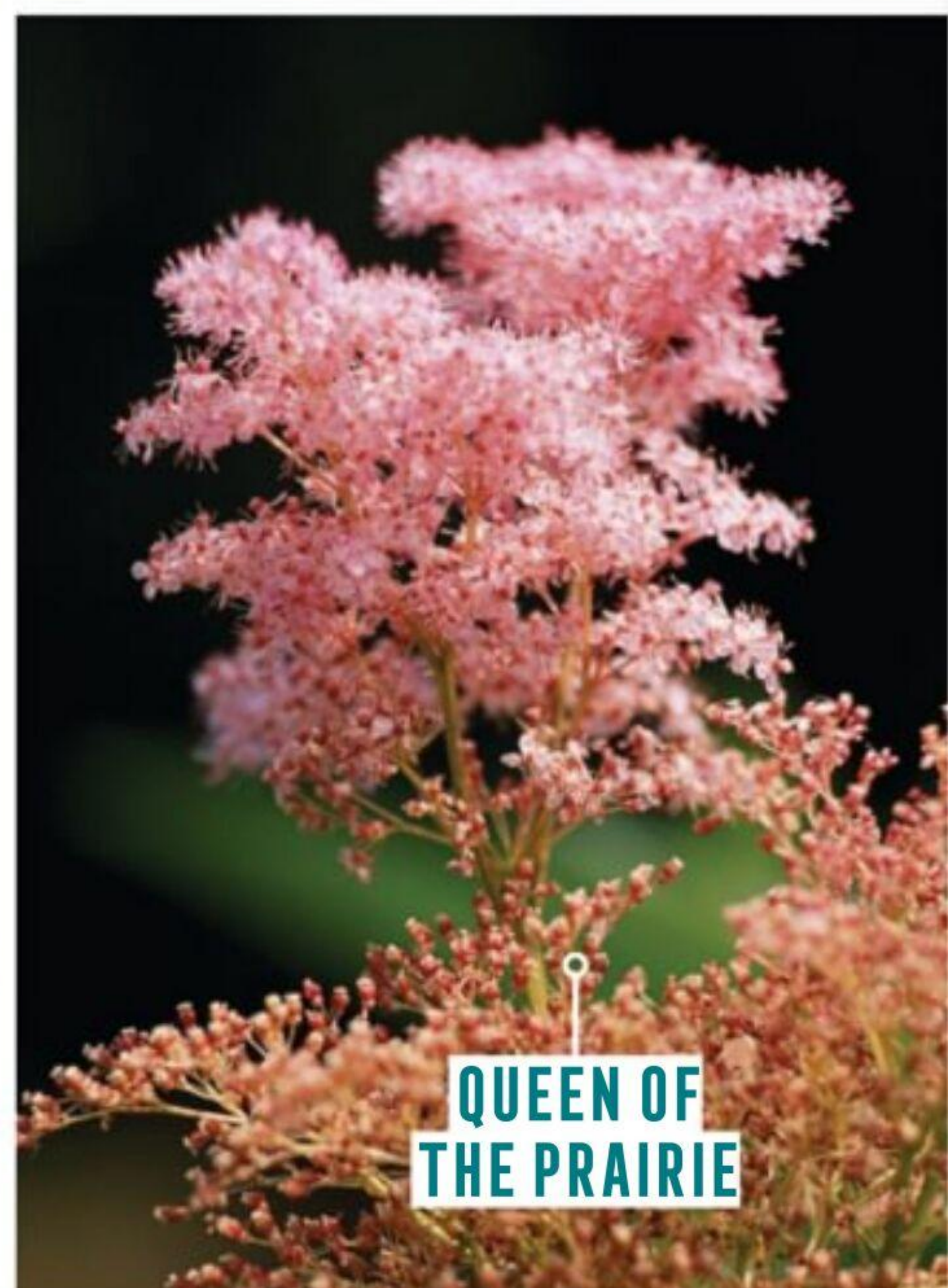
SPIDER FLOWER



CARDINAL FLOWER



SIBERIAN IRIS

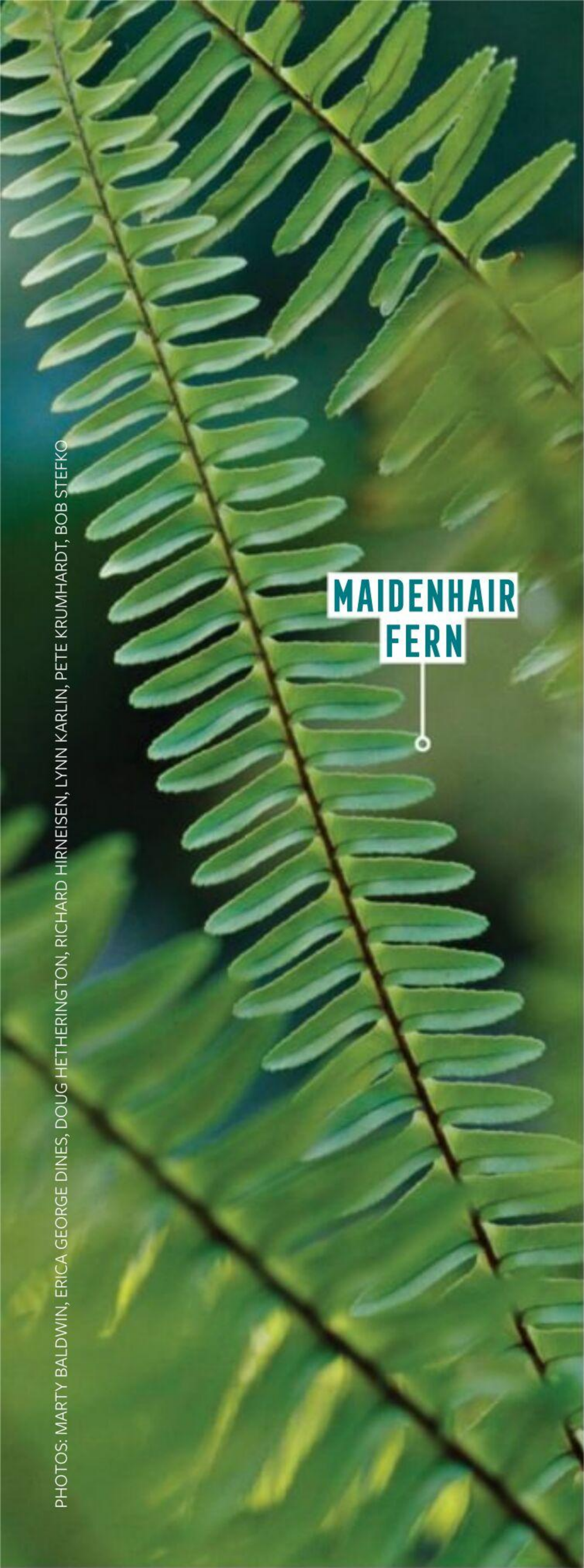


QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE



NASTURTIUM

PHOTOS: MARTY BALDWIN, ERICA GEORGE DINES, DOUG HETHERINGTON, RICHARD HIRNISEN, LYNN KARLIN, PETE KRUMHARDT, BOB STEFKO



MAIDENHAIR
FERN

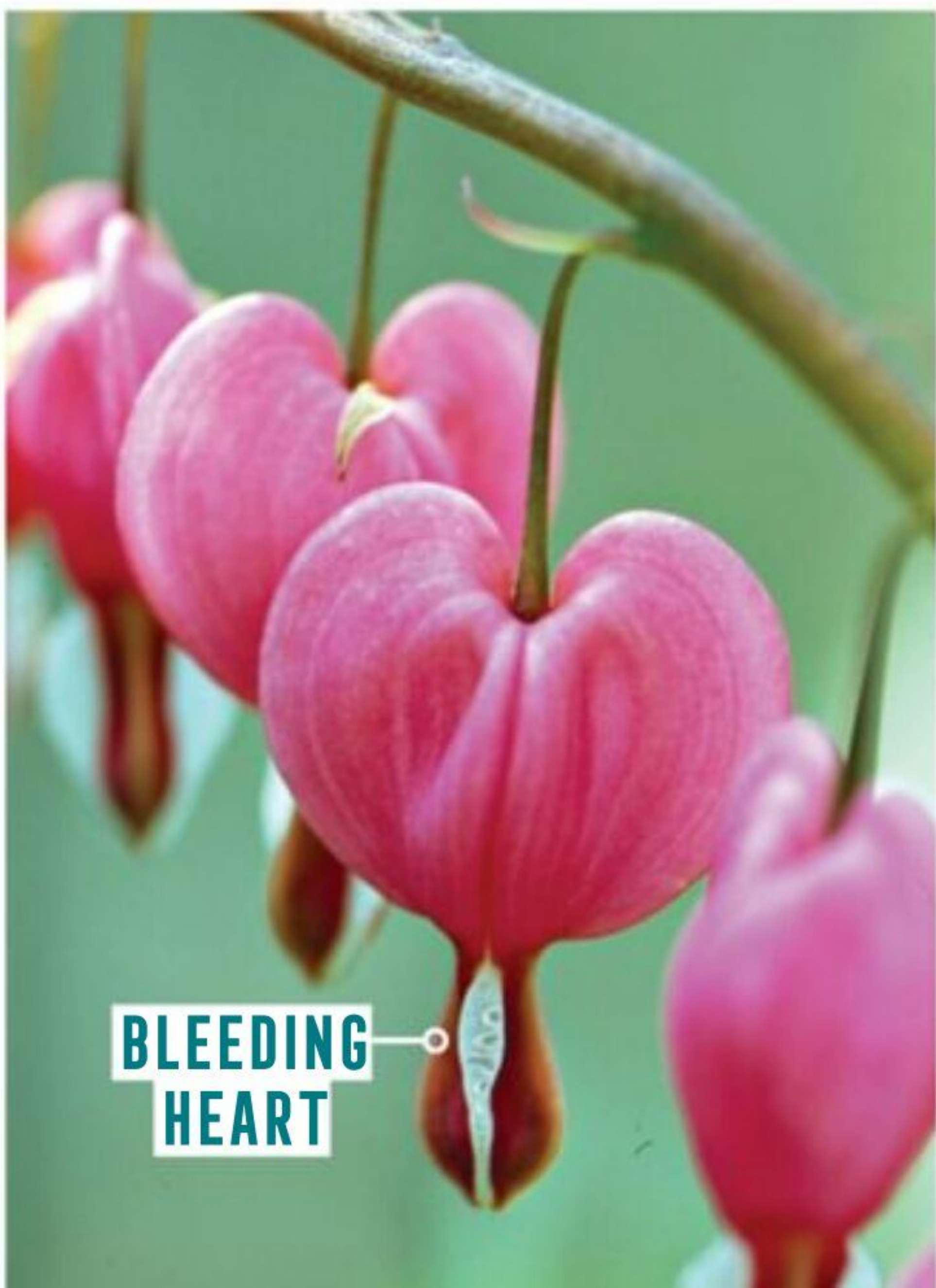


WET SITES

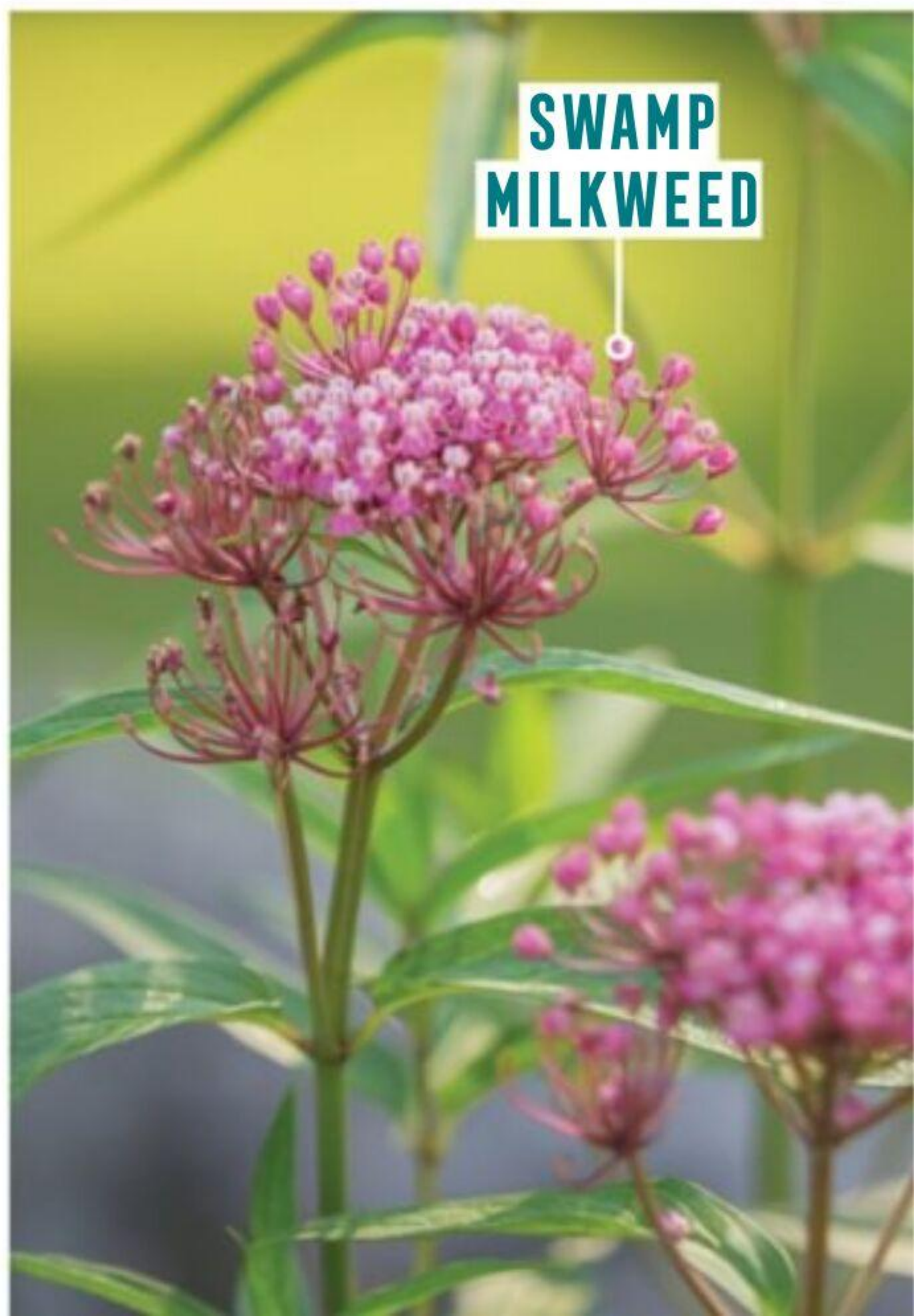
KALE



RED
CHOKEBERRY



BLEEDING
HEART



SWAMP
MILKWEED

CELEBRATE COLOR

WAKE UP A SLEEPY SECTION OF TURF WITH A MULTIHUE PERENNIAL PARTY. THESE LONG-BLOOMING BEAUTIES WILL LIGHT UP YOUR LANDSCAPE FOR MONTHS!

on the
cover



PHOTO: LAURIE BLACK

plant list

- 1 **Sweet alyssum** (*Lobularia maritima*) such as 'Violet Knight'; Annual
- 2 **Avens** (*Geum coccineum*) such as 'Totally Tangerine'; Zones 5-7
- 3 **Sage** (*Salvia nemorosa*) such as 'Caradonna'; Zones 4-8
- 4 **Drumstick allium** (*Allium sphaerocephalon*); Zones 4-8
- 5 **Viola** (*Viola* hybrid) such as 'Etain'; Zones 4-8
- 6 **Spike speedwell** (*Veronica* hybrid) such as 'Magic Show Wizard of Ahhs'; Zones 4-8
- 7 **Carpathian bellflower** (*Campanula carpatica*) such as 'Mini Marvels Midnight'; Zones 3-8

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